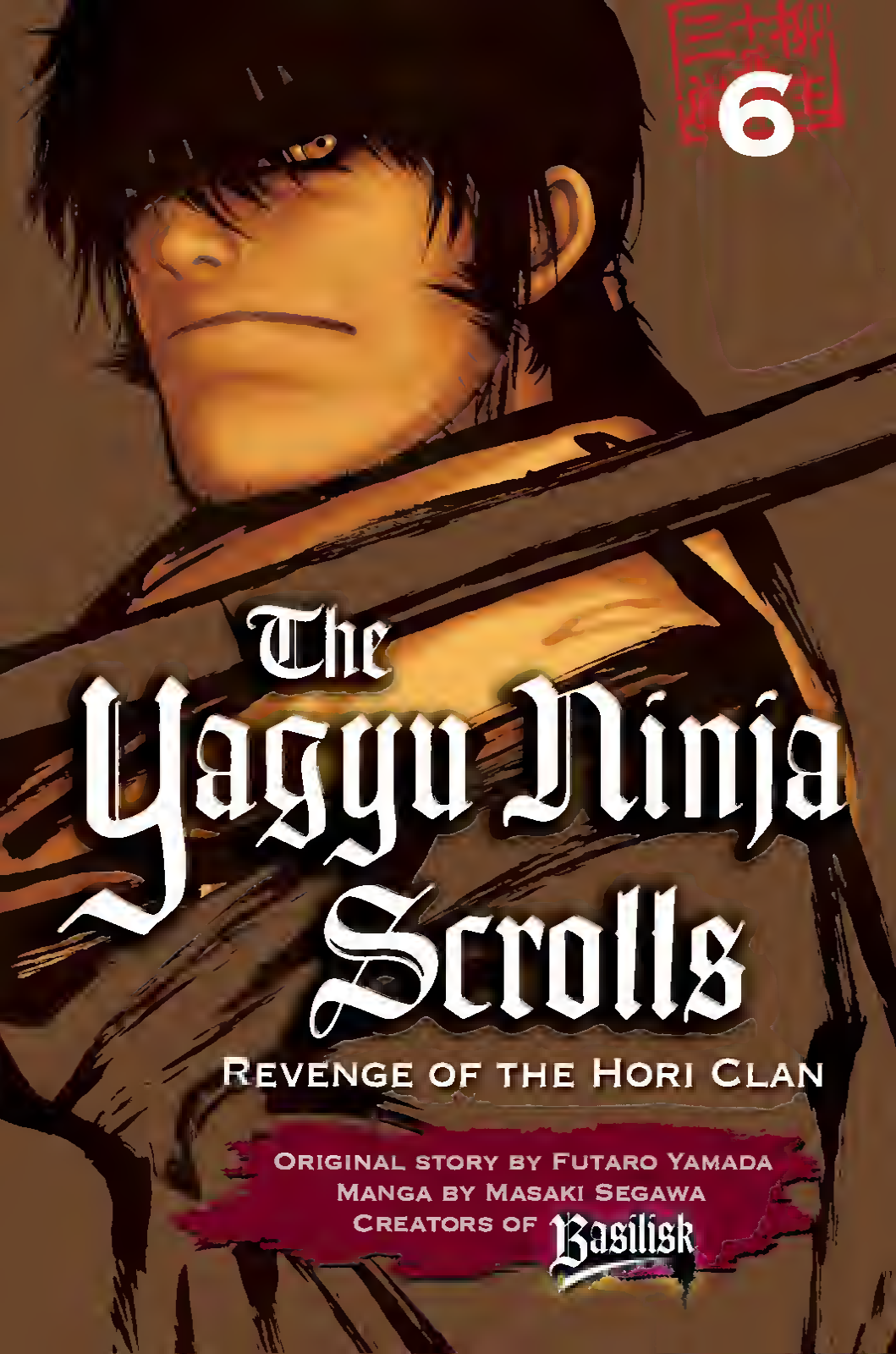
6
The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls
Revenge of the Hori Clan
Original story by Futaro Yamada
Manga by Masaki Segawa
Creators of Basilisk

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls

Revenge of the Yori Clan

ORIGINAL STORY BY FŪTARO YAMADA
MANGA BY MASAKI SEGAWA

TRANSLATED AND ADAPTED BY GEMMA COLLINGE
LETTERED BY B. HAN

6

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Translator/adapter: Gemma Collinge
Letterer: B. Han

Honorifics Explained

In this manga book, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in our manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls

6

ORIGINAL STORY BY
FŪTARO YAMADA

MANGA BY
MASAKI SEGAWA

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls
INTRODUCTION OF CHARACTERS

SYNOPSIS THE SEVEN WOMEN OF THE HORI CLAN, LED BY THE SWORD PRODIGY OF THE PERIOD, YAGYU JYÛBEI MITSUYOSHI, HAVE DEFEATED DAIDÔJI TESSAI (WIELDS A SICKLE AND CHAIN), HIRAGA MAGOBEI (WIELDS A SPEAR) AND GUSOKU JYÔNOSHIN (COMMANDS THREE GIANT DOGS) OF THE AIZU SEVEN SPEARS. PANICKED BY THE LOSS OF THREE OF THE SEVEN SPEARS, AKINARI DECIDES TO RETURN TO HIS OWN TERRITORY OF AIZU AND THE NANNYA MASK (JYÛBEI) DECIDES TO PURSUE HIM. JYÛBEI AND THE HORI WOMEN SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS TO PURSUE THE AKINARI ENTOURAGE AS IT PROCEEDS NORTH ALONG THE ÔSHÛ ROAD. WHAT WILL HAPPEN ALONG THE ROAD?!

THE SURVIVING WOMEN OF THE HORI CLAN

OKEI

SAKURA

OSAWA

OTORI

OFUE

OCHIE

OSHINA

YAGYÛ JYÛBEI MITSUYOSHI

THE AIZU SEVEN SPEARS

HIRAGA MAGOBEI
REVENGE ACCOMPLISHED

DAIDÔJI TESSAI
REVENGE ACCOMPLISHED

GUSOKU JYÔNOSHIN
REVENGE ACCOMPLISHED

WASHINOSU RENSUKE
USES KEMPO

KÔRO GINSHIRÔ
MANIPULATES A MYSTERIOUS NET

URUSHIDO KÔSHICHIRÔ
SWORDSMAN

SHIBA ICHIGANBO
WIELDS A WHIP

KATÔ AKINARI
AIZU CLAN HEAD

JYÛBEI'S MASTER AND HIS STUDENTS

SHINKABÔ

TAKUAN SÔHÔ
RESIDENT PRIEST OF TOKAI TEMPLE
TEMPLE OF THE SHOGUN

TAMONBÔ

YAKUSHIBÔ

JYÛJYÔBÔ

SHÔCHIKUBÔ

UNRINBÔ

RYÛÔBÔ

The Yagyu Ninja Scrolls 6

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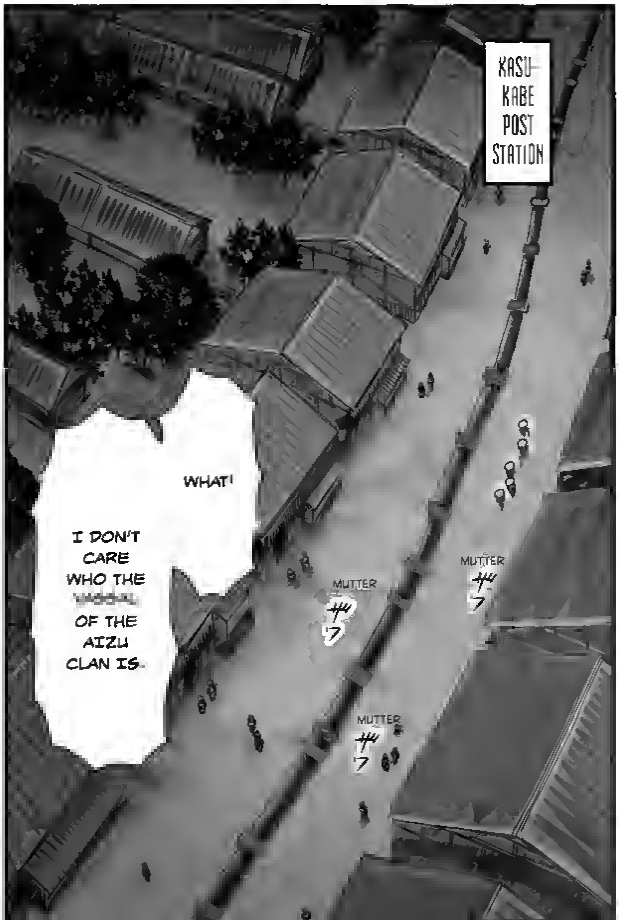
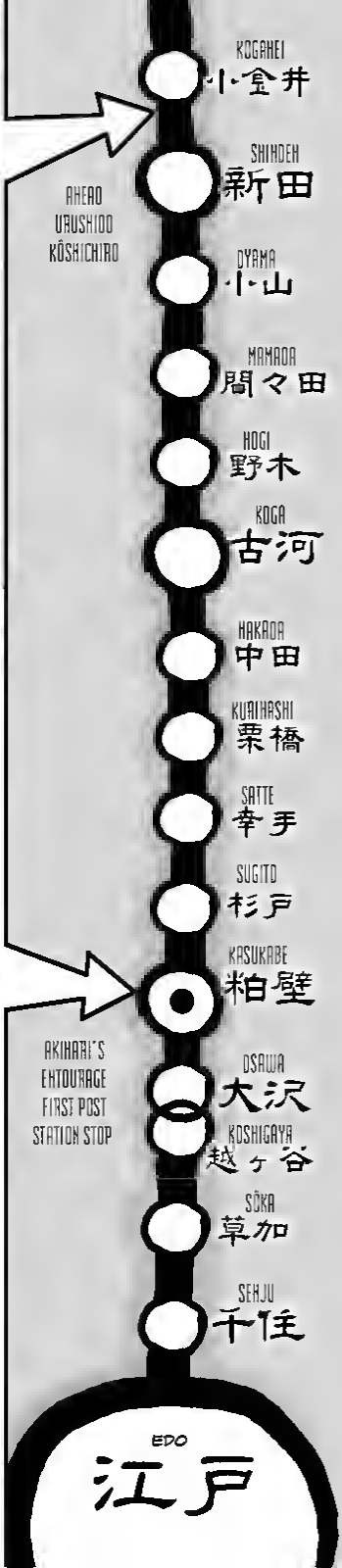
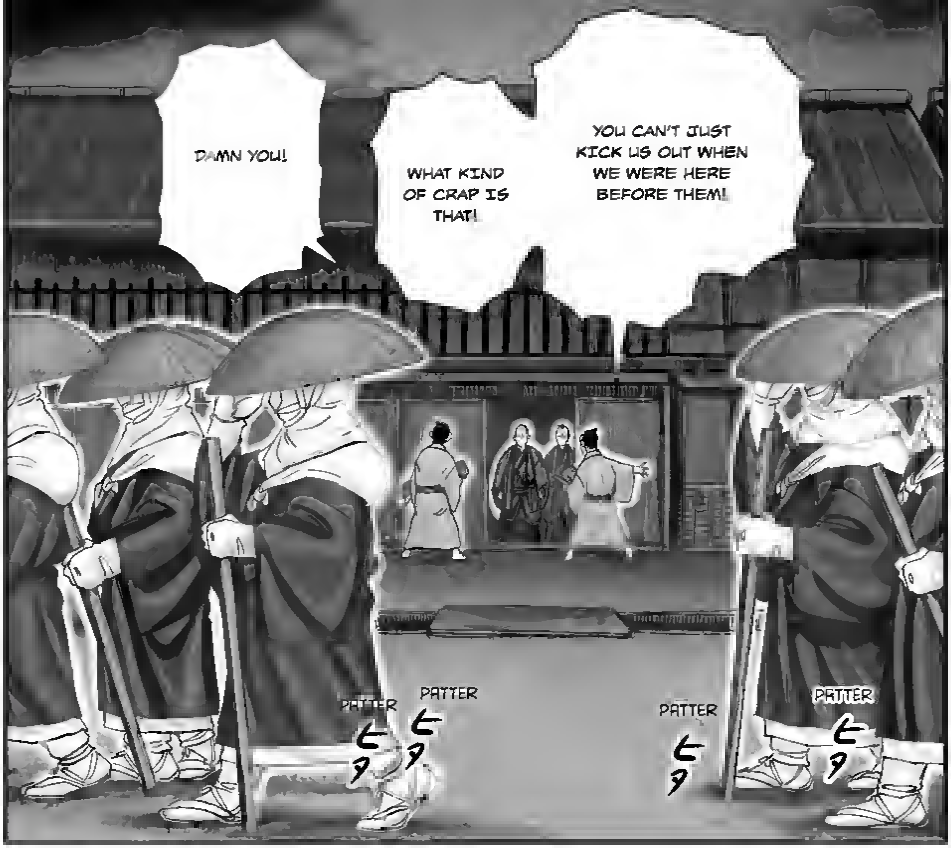
DADADADA

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS BULLSHIT!
HANGING A HANNYA ON THE ROOFTOP OF THE LODGINGS...
AIZU SEVEN SPEARS, URUSHIDO KOSHIGIRO

I HAVE TO FIND THEM!
DADADADA

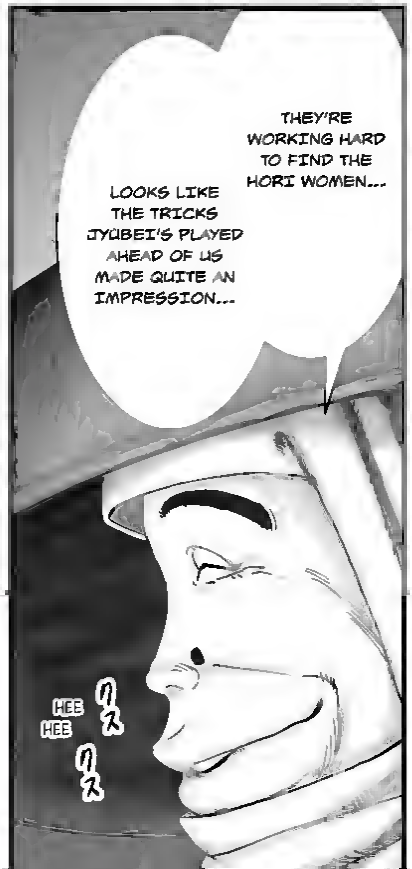

KASU-KABE POST STATION
WHAT!
I DON'T CARE WHO THE [redacted] OF THE AIZU CLAN IS.
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER


KOGANEI 小金井
SHINDEN 新田
AHEAD URUSHIDO KÔSHICHIRO
OYAMA 小山
MAMADA 間々田
NOGI 野木
KOGA 古河
NAKADA 中田
KURIHASHI 栗橋
SATTE 幸手
SUGITO 杉戸
KASUKABE 粕壁
AKIHARI'S ENTOURAGE FIRST POST STATION STOP
OSAWA 大沢
KOSHIGAYA 越ヶ谷
SÔKA 草加
SENJU 千住
EDO 江戸


DAMN YOU!
WHAT KIND OF CRAP IS THAT!
YOU CAN'T JUST KICK US OUT WHEN WE WERE HERE BEFORE THEM!
PATTER
PATTER
PATTER
PATTER

W-WHAT'D YOU SAY, YOU BASTARD!
FOOLS! KEEP COMPLAINING AND YOU'LL REGRET IT!
.....
PATTER
PATTER

THE DAIMYO'S PROCESSION HAS CREATED QUITE A DISTURBANCE IN THE POST STATIONS.
RESIDENT PRIEST OF BANSHOZAN TOKAI TEMPLE, TEIKEN SOHO
WOMAN! SHOW ME YOUR FACE!
AAH!
!
RUSTLE

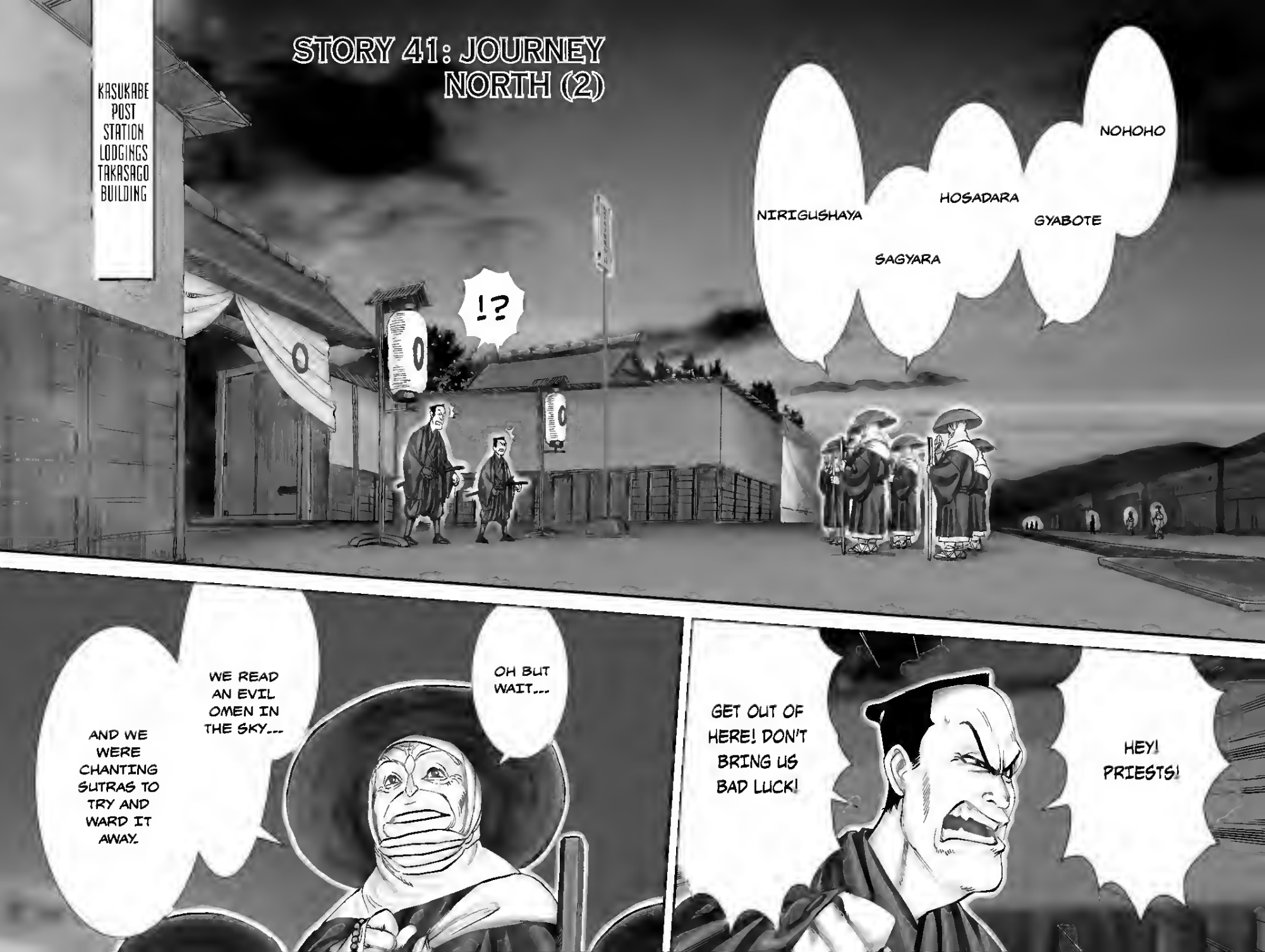

LOOKS LIKE THE TRICKS JYUBEI'S PLAYED AHEAD OF US MADE QUITE AN IMPRESSION...
THEY'RE WORKING HARD TO FIND THE HORI WOMEN...
HEE HEE

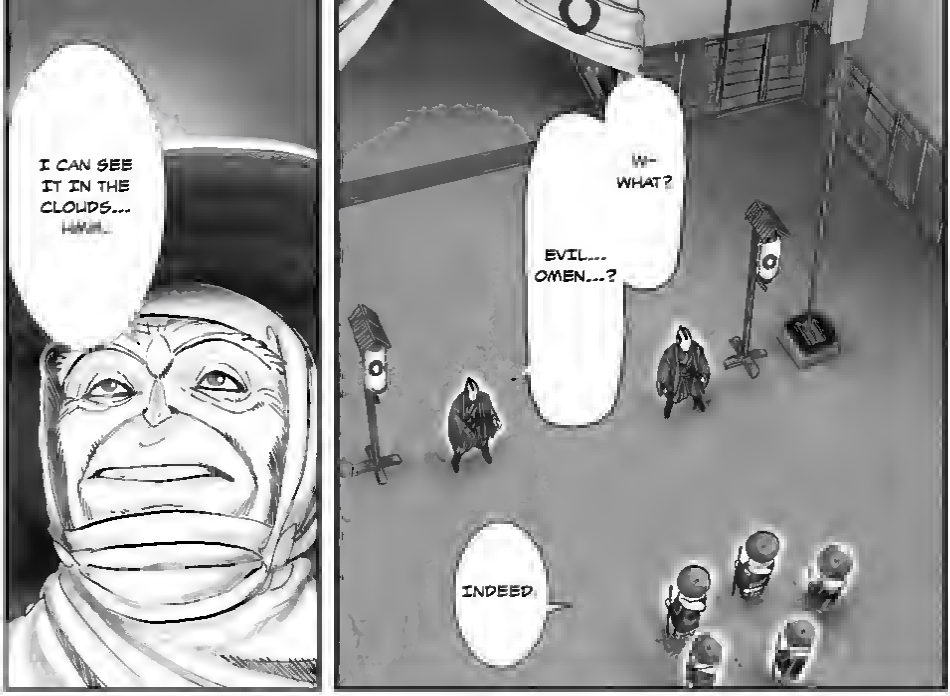
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO MY WIFE!
SHUT UP! THIS IS OUR DUTY!
.....

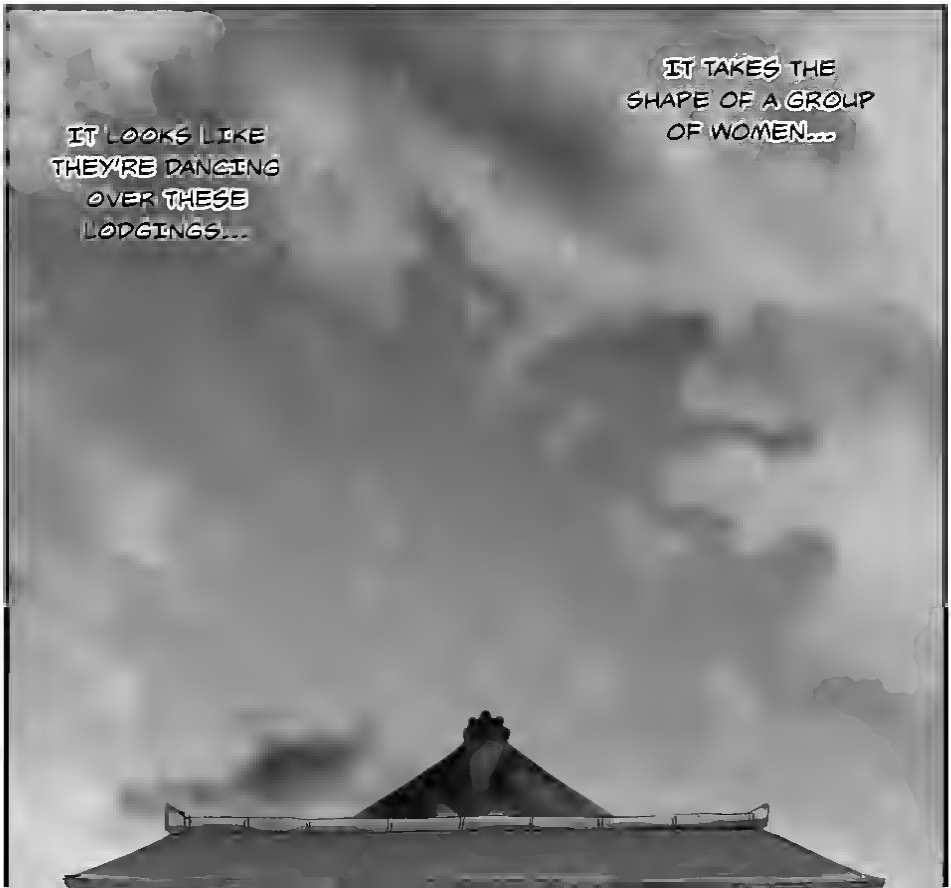
OI, WOMAN! SHOW ME YOUR FACE!
EH... UMM...
I GUESS I'M CAMPING TONIGHT...
AKINARI IS PROBABLY SCARED OUT OF HIS WITS NOW.
- - -
WON'T YOU AT LEAST LET ME STAY ON THE FLOOR?
UMM...
LEAVE IT TO JYUBEI TO LEAVE A HANNYA MASK ON THE LODGING'S ROOF.
HYUK HYUK

LODGINGS OF HIS MOST HONORABLE LORD KATO
OH.
HERE WE ARE.
WELL... LET'S DO THIS QUICKLY

LODGINGS OF HIS MOST HONORABLE LORD KATÔ


STORY 41: JOURNEY NORTH (2)
KASUKABE POST STATION LODGINGS TAKASAGO BUILDING
!?
NOHOHO
HOSADARA
NIRIGUSHAYA
GYABOTE
SAGYARA
AND WE WERE CHANTING SUTRAS TO TRY AND WARD IT AWAY.
WE READ AN EVIL OMEN IN THE SKY...
OH BUT WAIT...
GET OUT OF HERE! DON'T BRING US BAD LUCK!
HEY! PRIESTS!


I CAN SEE IT IN THE CLOUDS... HMM...
W-WHAT?
EVIL... OMEN...?
INDEED


IT TAKES THE SHAPE OF A GROUP OF WOMEN...
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE DANCING OVER THESE LODGINGS...

WHAT IS IT?
.....
SWOOSH

OH!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
AIZU SEVEN SPEARS, KORO GINSHIRO

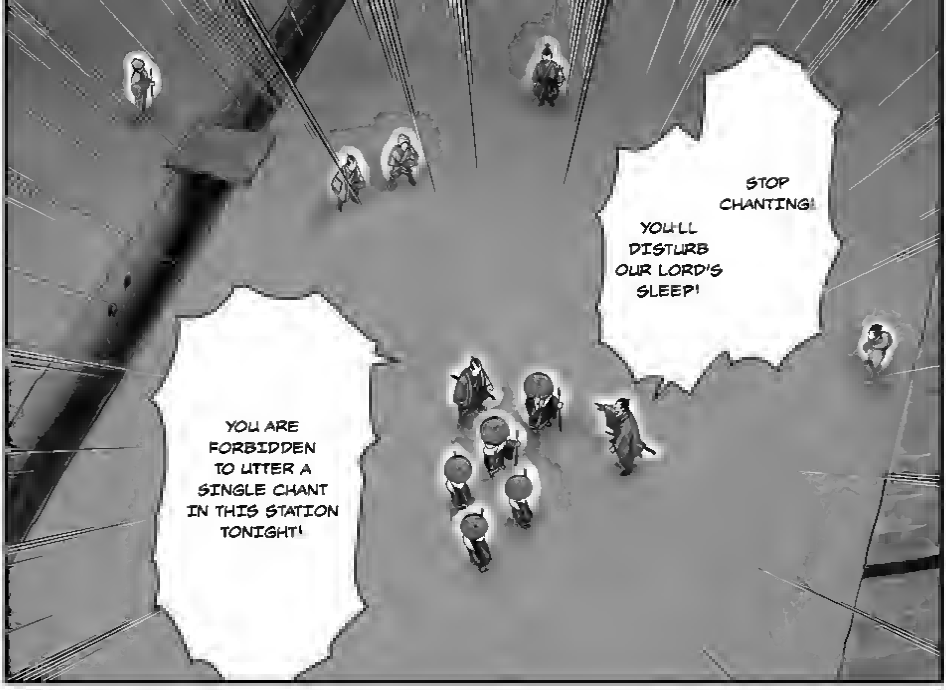
THIS IS THE YOUNG WARRIOR WE MET EARLIER.
IS THE WHOLE HOUSE OF AIZU HERE?
HEH
HEH

...OR SO THEY SAY.
THERE'S AN EVIL OMEN FLOATING ABOVE THE ROOF...
THESE PRIESTS...

OUR LORD WILL NOT LOOK FAVORABLY ON THIS...
IDIOTS! WE DON'T NEED YOUR RIDICULOUS CHANTING!

IF THAT IS THE WAY IT IS... FAREWELL...
LODGINGS OF HIS MOST HONORABLE LORD KATÔ
LEAVE NOW!

ANGER
イラ
HMPH.
NOUBOBO
GYABOTE
HUFFLE
HOSADARA
SAGYARA
NIRIGU
SHAYA
SILENCE THEIR CHANTING!
NOW!
HAH? SIR...
YOU!
DADADA
WAIT, PRIESTS!


STOP CHANTING!
YOU'LL DISTURB OUR LORD'S SLEEP!
YOU ARE FORBIDDEN TO UTTER A SINGLE CHANT IN THIS STATION TONIGHT!

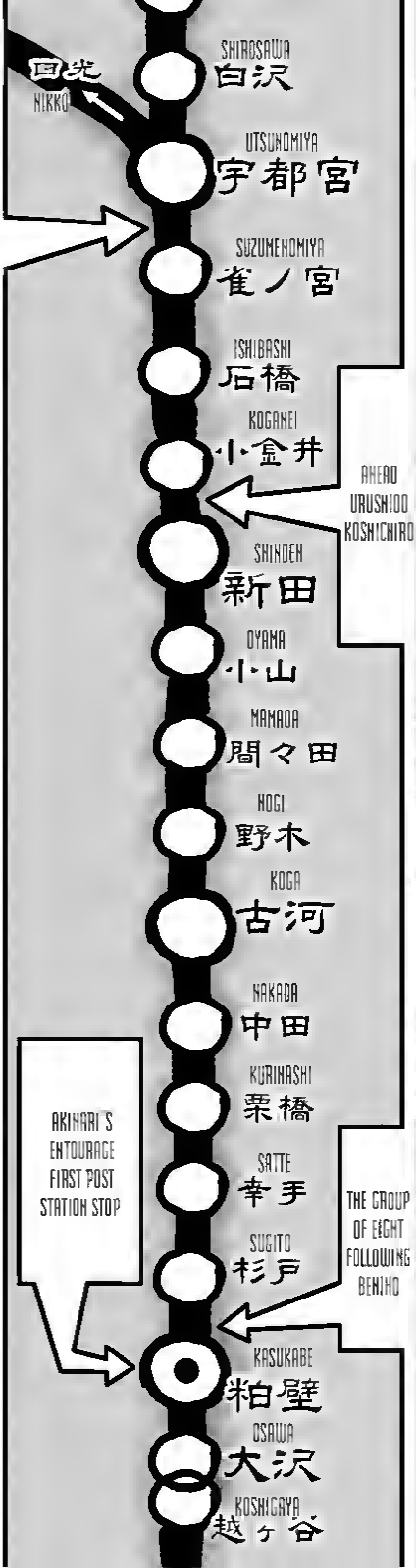
YOU GOT IT?
FORBIDDEN!
.....

YOU PEOPLE ARE THE ONES WHO KICKED US OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!
HEH.
WHAT'S WITH THIS LORD NEEDING HIS BEAUTY SLEEP!
CLENCH

HE'S THE ONLY ONE TUCKED UP IN BED RIGHT NOW!
STINKING LORD!
PISSES ME OFF SO MUCH!
.....
ムカ
RISE
ムカ
.....
PRIESTS, I DON'T SUPPOSE WE COULD TROUBLE YOU TO TEACH US A LINE OF THE SUTRA?
SCRATCH SCRATCH
ばりばり

STOP RIGHT NOW!
...
HOSADARA SAGYARA
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
*Takeda Shingen created a similar method of attacking the enemy
HEH
THIS REMINDS ME OF TAKEDA SHINGEN
STROKE
GRIN
NOUBOBO GYABOTE
NIRIGU-SHAYA
HOSADARA SAGYARA
NOUBOBO GYABOTE
HEY, STOP THAT!
HOSADARA SAGYARA NIRIGUSHAYA
COME HERE YOU!
NOUBOBO GYABOTE
NIRIGU-SHAYA
WAIT! YOU!
HOSADARA SAGYARA NIRIGUSHAYA
NOUBOBO GYABOTE

DADADA
I'M
I'M
I'M
I DIDN'T THINK THE HANNYA WOULD HAVE GOT AS FAR AS SHINDEN STATION...
...
CLENCH
GRIP
DADADA
I'M
I'M
I'M
WE'VE FOUND A PLACE TO STAY TONIGHT!
A JIZÔ SHRINE!
EXCELLENT. WE'LL BE UNDER THE BUDDHA'S PROTECTION THERE.
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
HEH.
AH, THERE.
HOSADARA
NIRIGU-SHAYA
SAGYARA
NOUBOBO GYABOTE

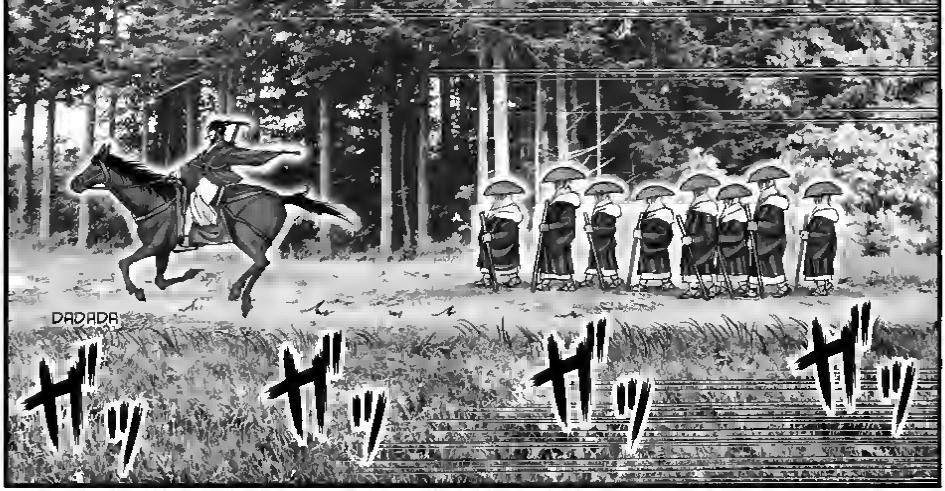

NIKKO
日光
SHIRASAWA
白沢
UTSUNOMIYA
宇都宮
SUZUMEMIYA
雀ノ宮
ISHIBASHI
石橋
KOGANEI
小金井
SHINDEN
新田
OYAMA
小山
MAMADA
間々田
NOGI
野木
KOGA
古河
NAKADA
中田
KURIHASHI
栗橋
SATTE
幸手
SUGITO
杉戸
KASUKABE
粕壁
OSAWA
大沢
KOSHIGAYA
越ヶ谷
AHEAD URUSHIDO KOSHICHIRO
THE GROUP OF EIGHT FOLLOWING BENIHO
AKINARI'S ENTOURAGE FIRST POST STATION STOP

THAT MAN!
HE'S ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD!
DADADA!
ガガガ

ZZZ
ク～

HUH
JUST PAST SUZUME-NOMIYA
THE NEXT DAY
DA
DADADA
PRIESTS ...
DADADA

.....
DADA
STORY 41 END


DADADA

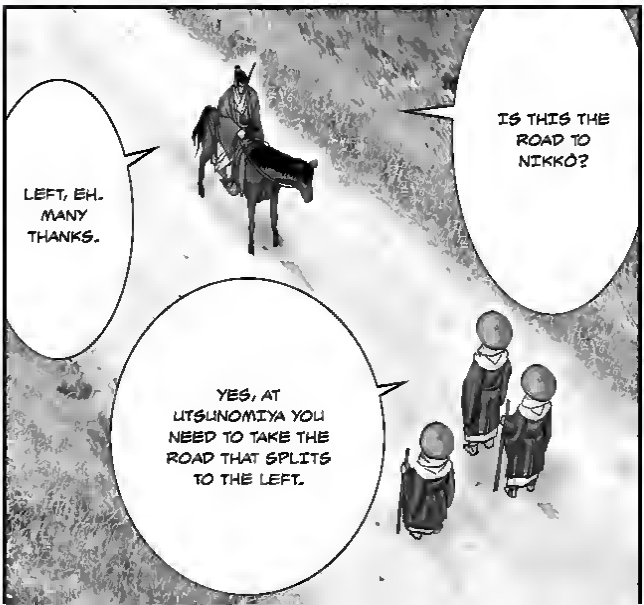
DADADA

DADADADADA

TUG

STORY 42: JOURNEY NORTH (3)

HM?
WHAT IS IT?
TAMONBO
YAKU-SHIBÔ
UNRINBO


IS THIS THE ROAD TO NIKKÔ?
LEFT, EH. MANY THANKS.
YES, AT UTSUNOMIYA YOU NEED TO TAKE THE ROAD THAT SPLITS TO THE LEFT.

OH... NOTHING ...
THEY'RE LEGIT...

DADA
ガッ ガッ ガッ
.....

HE'S GOING ON AHEAD TO AIZU?
URUSHIDO KÔSHICHIRÔ
RUSTLE

I WONDER WHY?
.....
OSAWA
OSHIWA

THEY'RE PREDICTING THAT WE ENTER AIZU.
HE'S PROBABLY GONE THERE TO CONFRONT US.
YAGYŪ JYŪBEI MITSUYOSHI

IF ONLY WE'D MADE A MOVE JUST NOW!
URUSHIDO KŌSHICHIRŌ
CLENCH
ŌKEI
CLENCH
OTORI

I DON'T KNOW.
DO YOU THINK WE'D WIN, MASTER JYUBEI?
IF HE COMES BACK...
TAP
IT'S JUST...
AS WE ARE NOW, THESE WOMEN WOULD BE NO MATCH FOR HIM.
MY, MY, THAT ISN'T VERY POSITIVE...
THAT IS...
...ALL I AM SURE OF.

.....
.....
WELL.
I WAS GOING TO GET TO THAT...
ISN'T THIS GOING TO POSE A PROBLEM WHEN WE ENTER AIZU?
HOWEVER...
INDEED AIZU MAY VERY WELL BE THE PLACE WHERE WE MEET OUR DEATH.
JUST THINK OF HOW MUCH FEAR AND SORROW WE'LL UNLEASH...
IF WE DEFEAT OUR ENEMY.

DON'T YOU THINK...
THAT ALONE MAKES REVENGE WORTH IT?
YES.
YES.

HOW WE ATTACK THE ENEMY DEPENDS ON THE ENEMY'S MOVEMENTS! THE RIGHT WEATHER! THE RIGHT GROUND! THE RIGHT TIME!
IT'S GOING TO BE INTER-ESTING!
OH DEAR.

HYUK
HYUK
HYUK
...

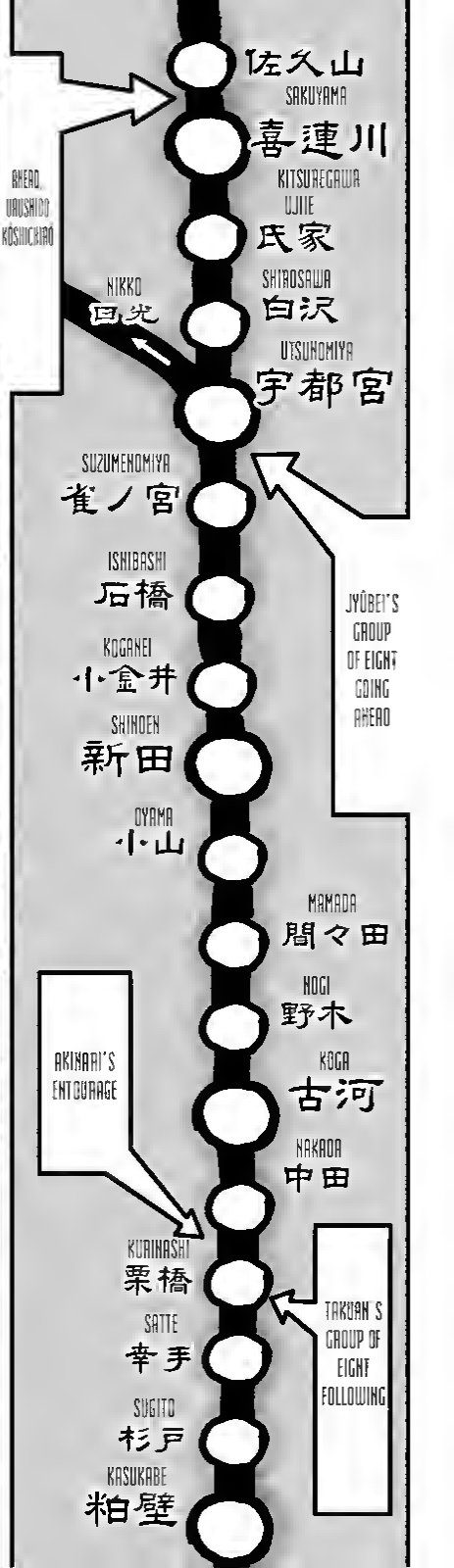
WE HAVE CAUSED ENOUGH TROUBLE FOR YOU PRIESTS...

YES, WE ALL AGREE!
WE WON'T HEAR ANYTHING OF IT. TO BE OF USE TO SUCH BEAUTIFUL WOMEN, EVEN IF IT RESULTS IN DEATH, IS A PRIEST'S DREAM!

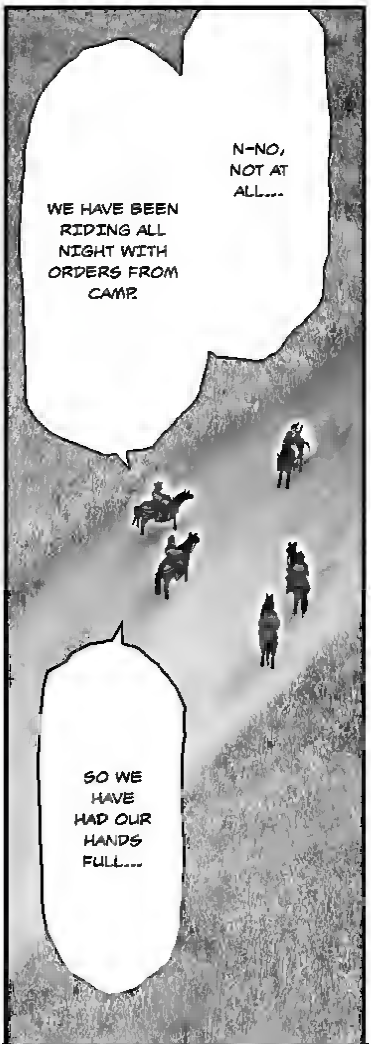
OI!
WAIT!
DADADA

?

LORD
KÔSHI-
CHIRÔ?!
DADADA


佐久山
SAKUYAMA
喜連川
KITSUREGAWA
氏家
UJIIE
白沢
SHIRASAWA
宇都宮
UTSUNOMIYA
日光
NIKKO
AHEAD, URUSHIDO KÔSHICHIRÔ
雀ノ宮
SUZUMENOMIYA
石橋
ISHIBASHI
小倉井
KOGANEI
新田
SHINDEN
小山
OYAMA
JYÛBEI'S GROUP OF EIGHT GOING AHEAD
間々田
MAMADA
野木
NOGI
古河
KOGA
中田
NAKADA
AKIYAMA'S ENTOURAGE
栗橋
KURIHASHI
幸手
SATTE
杉戸
SUGITO
粕壁
KASUKABE
TAKUAN'S GROUP OF EIGHT FOLLOWING

DADADA
ON URGENT BUSINESS AGAIN?
DADADA


N-NO, NOT AT ALL...
WE HAVE BEEN RIDING ALL NIGHT WITH ORDERS FROM CAMP.
SO WE HAVE HAD OUR HANDS FULL...

HAVE YOU NOTICED...
A GROUP OF SUSPICIOUS LOOKING WOMEN ALONG THIS ROAD?

QUIET!
THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE HORI CLAN ARE ON THE ÔSHÜ ROAD.
AT LEAST TWO OF YOU!
HEAD BACK NOW TO REPORT THIS TO OUR LORD!
YES...
MOVE QUICKLY!
DADADA
I'M HEADING TO AIZU TO WARN THEM THERE.
SIR!

JYUBEI'S GROUP OF EIGHT GOING AHEAD

AKINARI'S ENTOURAGE, SECOND POST STATION STOP

TAKUAN'S GROUP OF EIGHT, FOLLOWING AFTER

佐久山 SAKUYAMA
喜連川 KITSUREGAWA
氏家 UJIE
白沢 SHIRASAWA
日光 NIKKO
宇都宮 UTSUNOMIYA
雀ノ宮 SUZUMENOMIYA
石橋 ISHIBASHI
小金井 KOGANEI
新田 SHINDEN
小山 OYAMA
間々田 MAMADA
野木 NOGI
古河 KOGA
中田 NAKADA
栗橋 KURIHASHI
幸手 SATTE
杉戸 SUGITO
粕壁 KASUKABE

WHAT IS THE MATTER, MY LORD?
IS SOMEONE THERE!
ANY-BODY!

I HEARD A STRANGE NOISE... OUTSIDE...
I... I...
LORD OF AIZU, KATÔ AKINARI

IT'S THE SOUND OF FALLING LEAVES IN THE AUTUMN WIND...

MA-MAKE IT...STOP...
IN THE DISTANCE... I HEARD THE SOUND OF CHANTING...

...I...
I SEE...
MY LORD...
IT'S PROBABLY THE SOUND OF BABBLING WATER IN A BROOK...

THAT'S THE LORD OF 400,000 KOKU?!
ギュッ
CLENCH
PITIFUL!

カラッ
SLIDE

HE WAS MUTTERING SOMETHING WHEN WE WERE TRAVELING YESTERDAY TOO...
MONDO ...
YOU... YOU HATE ME... HORI MONDO ...
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
IT SOUNDED LIKE HE WAS TALKING TO HORI MONDO'S SPIRIT...
AIZU SEVEN SPEARS
WASHINOSU HEISUKE
HE HAS BEEN THIS WAY EVER SINCE THE DISCOVERY OF THE HANNYA MASK ON THE ROOF...
...HE DIDN'T SLEEP AT ALL LAST NIGHT...
AIZU SEVEN SPEARS, SHITEI ICHIGANBO

HE NEEDS A WOMAN!
IT'S STILL FIFTY RI TO AIZU...
WE NEED TO THINK OF SOME THING...

HE NEEDS A WOMAN TO SERVE HIM!
IT'S LIKE A TREE WITHOUT WATER, A LANTERN WITHOUT FIRE, A WINDMILL WITHOUT WIND!
TST TST TST

YOU HAVE A GIRL IN MIND GINSHIRÔ?

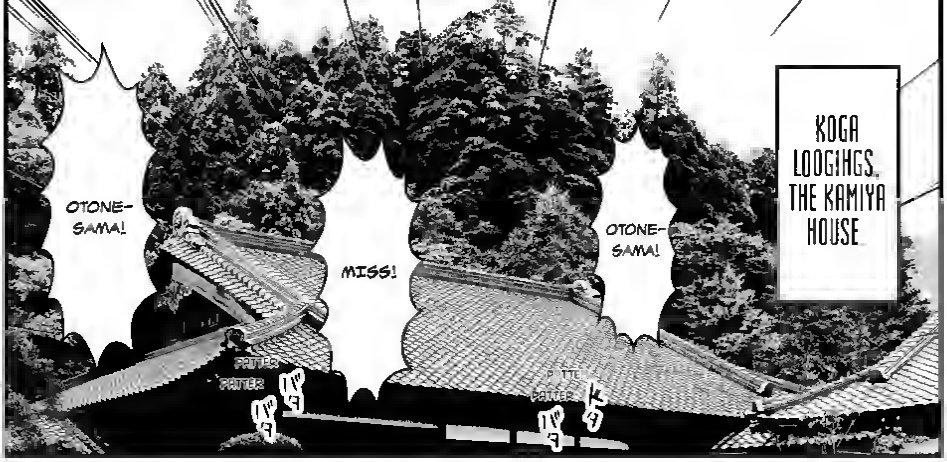
BUT THE WOMEN IN EDO MANSION HAVE ALL FLED.
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

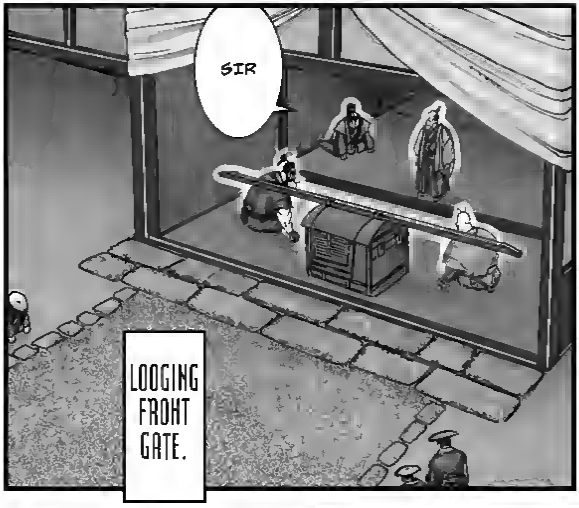
GRIN
HEH...

SHE'S NINETEEN...
HER NAME IS OTONE.
LATE AT NIGHT... I SAW A GIRL IN THE GARDEN.
NOT JUST ANY GIRL WILL DO, YOU KNOW.

SLIP
スッ

KAMIYA GOROEMON'S DAUGHTER.
THE MASTER OF THIS HOUSE...
STORY 42 END


KOGA LOOGINGS, THE KAMIYA HOUSE
OTONE-SAMA!
MISS!
OTONE-SAMA!
PATTER PATTER
パタ パタ
パタ パタ


SIR
LOOGING FROHT GATE.

WHAT IS IT?
IT'S SO NOISY.
RAGE
イラッ

OH?

PLEASE ...
IF YOU WOULD, MY LORD...
カラリ
SLIDE

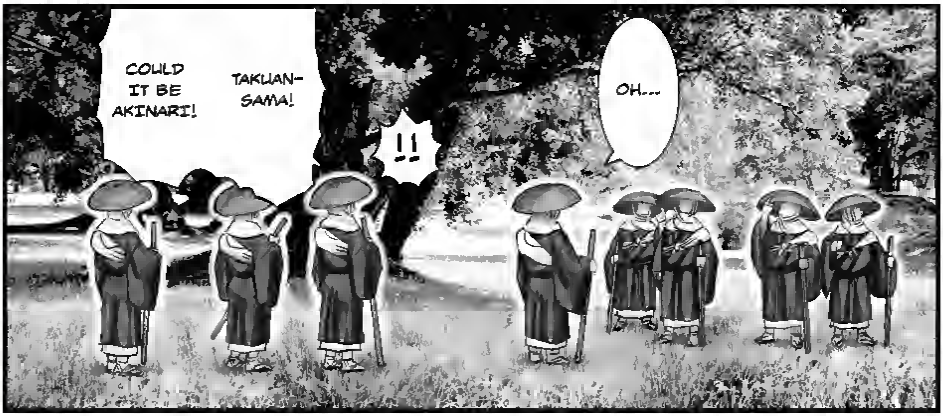
THIS MORNING AT THIS HOUSE...
ONE OF THE GIRLS WENT MISSING. SO THERE IS QUITE A DIS-TURBANCE.
GRIN
ニヤッ

STORY 43: JOURNEY NORTH (4)

OH.
HMM.
GRIN
I SEE...
THAT YOU PREPARED IT WELL.
SIR.
SLIP
LET'S SEE...
SLAM

OUR LORD DEPARTS!
WHAT?
A GIRL AT THE LODGINGS DISAPPEARED?
佐久山
SAKUYAMA
喜連川
KITSUREGAWA
UJIIE
氏家
NIKKO
日光
SHIROSAWA
白沢
UTSUNOMIYA
宇都宮
SUZUMENOMIYA
雀ノ宮
ISHIBASHI
石橋
KOGANEI
小金井
SHINDEN
新田
OYAMA
小山
MAMADA
間々田
NOGI
野木
KOGA
古河
NAKADA
中田
KURIHASHI
栗橋
SATTE
幸手
SUGITO
杉戸
KASUKABE
粕壁

YES...
I JUST PASSED BY THE FRONT TO CHECK...
THE WHOLE PLACE IS IN AN UPROAR, ESPECIALLY HER MOTHER MRS. KAMIYA.

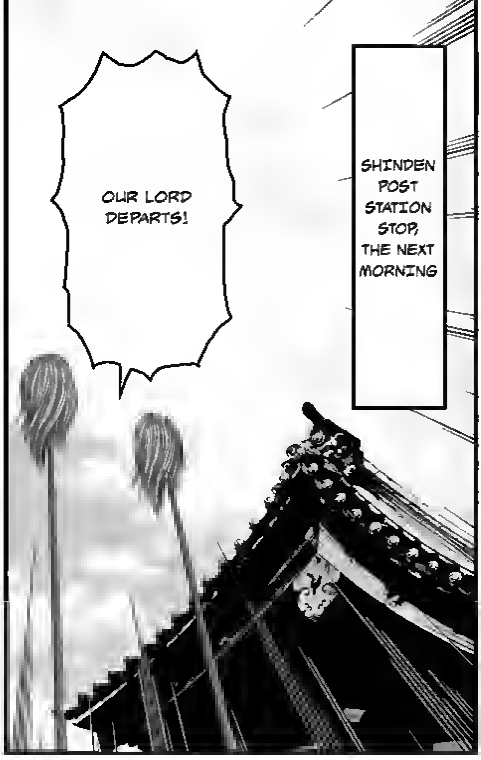

OH...
!!
TAKUAN-SAMA!
COULD IT BE AKINARI!

IT MIGHT BE...
THAT MAN'S TRACK RECORD WITH WOMEN IS THE WORST I'VE KNOWN.
.....
SAKURA
OCHIE
OFUE

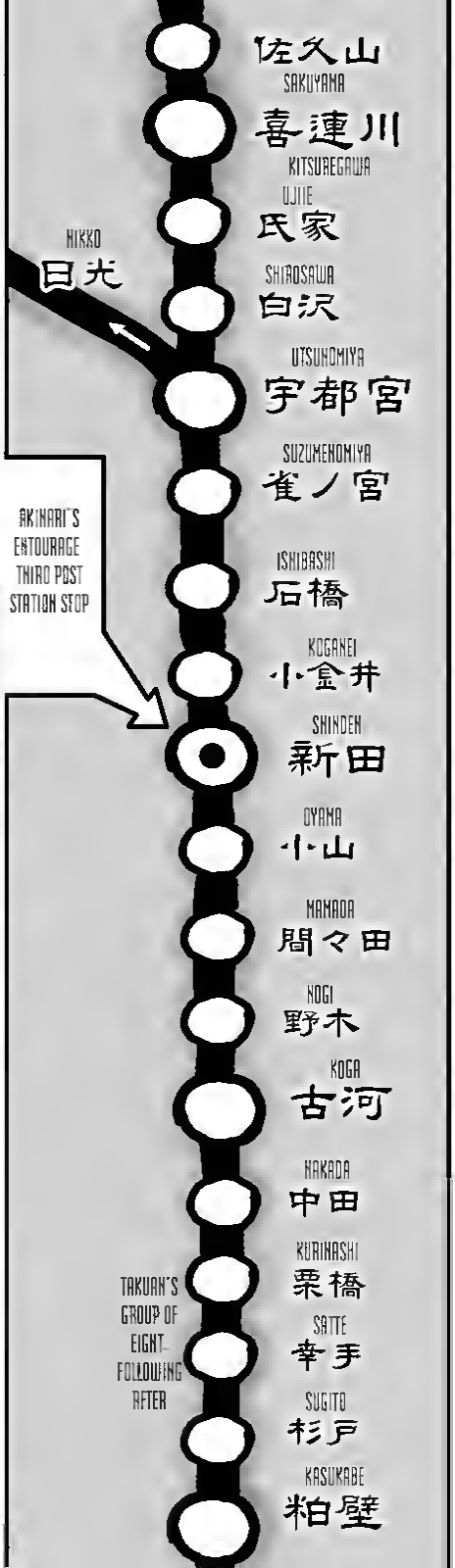
ONE
TWO
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
ONE
TWO
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
NO...
ONE
TWO
AH.
TUG

SUCH A BEAUTIFUL FACE...
LET ME GO... PLEASE LET ME GO!
NGH...
TONE...
THAT'S YOUR NAME ISN'T IT?
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
GRIP
HEHE... IF YOU DON'T WANT IT TO HURT...
THEN YOU SHOULD OPEN YOUR LEGS WIDE FOR ME.
NGH.

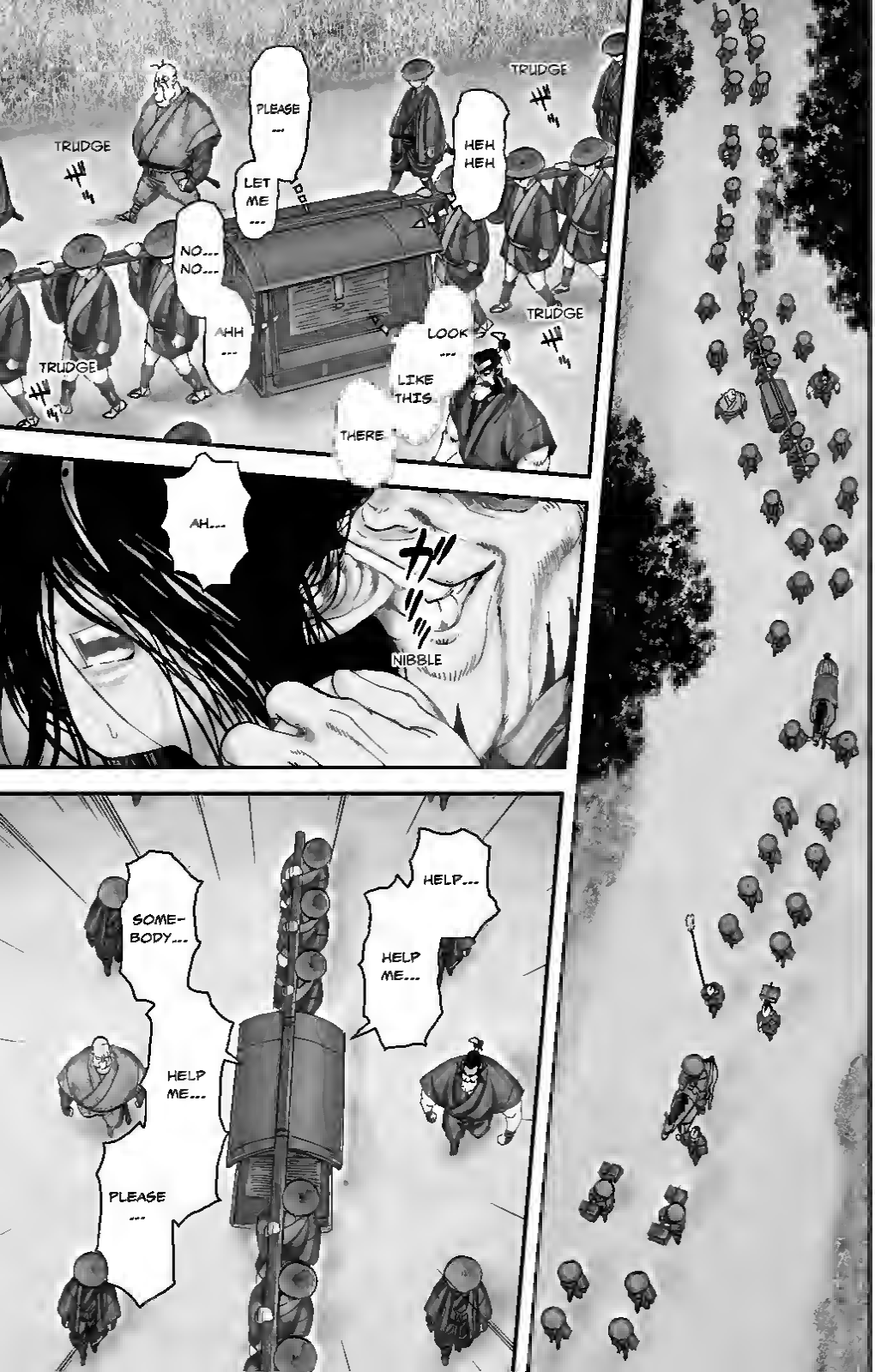
I'LL MAKE YOU MY CONCUBINE.
PLEA...
SHAKE
SHUFFLE
WHEN WE GET TO AIZU YOU'LL LIVE A LIFE OF LUXURY...
PLEA... PLEASE LET ME GO.
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
THAT DOESN'T SOUND SO BAD DOES IT?
HMM?
SHUFFLE
UGH...
...NGH
...AH...
SHUFFLE


OUR LORD DEPARTS!
SHINDEN POST STATION STOP, THE NEXT MORNING

SHUFFLE
ぎしっ
DID YOU REST WELL LAST NIGHT? ...HMM?
SOME DAYTIME AMUSEMENT AS WE TRAVEL... IS FAR MORE INTERESTING THAN A NIGHTTIME CALL...
SHUFFLE
ぎしっ
SHUFFLE
ぎしっ

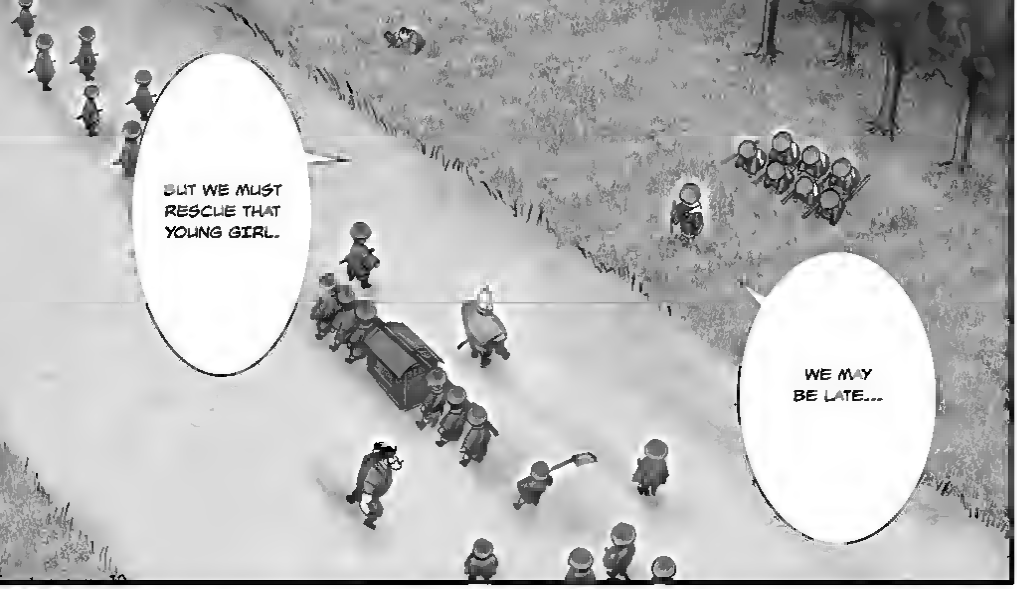

SAKUYAMA
佐久山
KITSUREGAWA
喜連川
UJIIE
氏家
SHIROSAWA
白沢
UTSUNOMIYA
宇都宮
SUZUMENOMIYA
雀ノ宮
ISHIBASHI
石橋
KOGANEI
小金井
SHINDEN
新田
OYAMA
小山
MAMADA
間々田
NOGI
野木
KOGA
古河
NAKADA
中田
KURIHASHI
栗橋
SATTE
幸手
SUGITO
杉戸
KASUKABE
粕壁
NIKKO
日光
AKINARI'S ENTOURAGE THIRD POST STATION STOP
TAKUAN'S GROUP OF EIGHT FOLLOWING AFTER

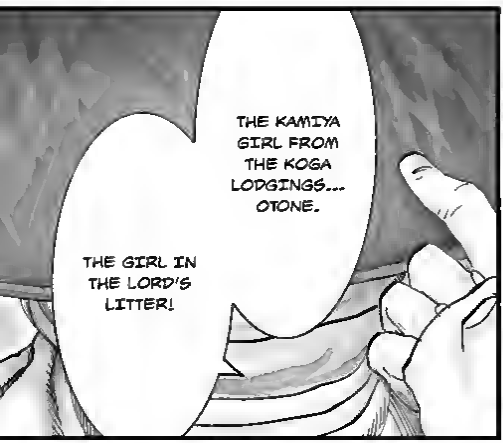
I HOPE THAT WE CAN HAVE SOME FUN TODAY AGAIN.
....OTONE.
GROPE
GROPE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE


TRUDGE
PLEASE ...
LET ME ...
NO... NO...
AHH ...
TRUDGE
TRUDGE
HEH HEH
TRUDGE
LOOK ...
LIKE THIS
THERE
AH...
NIBBLE
SOME-BODY...
HELP ME...
PLEASE ...
HELP...
HELP ME...

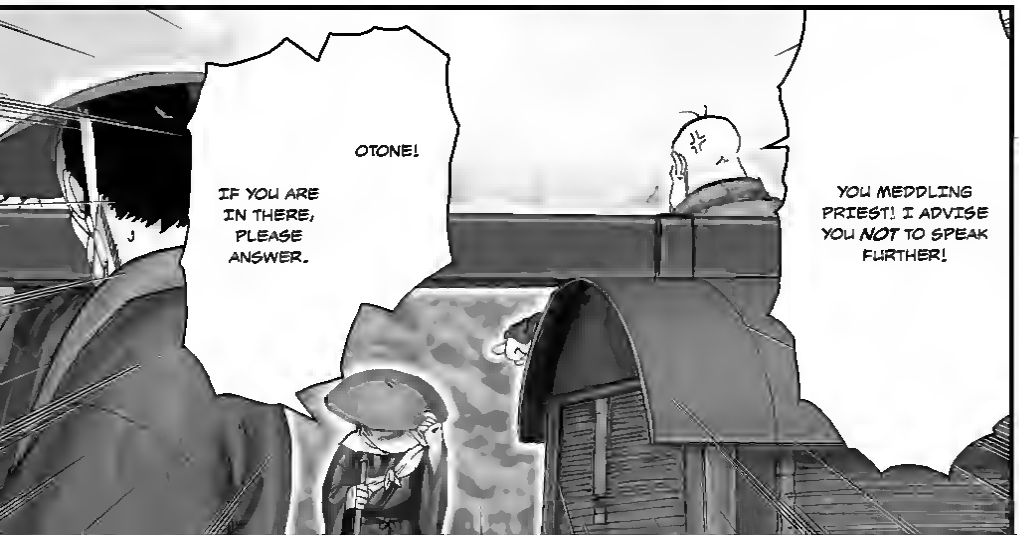
SWOOSH
HUH?!

THIS IS THE ENTOURAGE OF THE HONORABLE LORD KATÔ ON HIS RETURN TO AIZU.
INSOLENT PRIEST! STAND BACK!

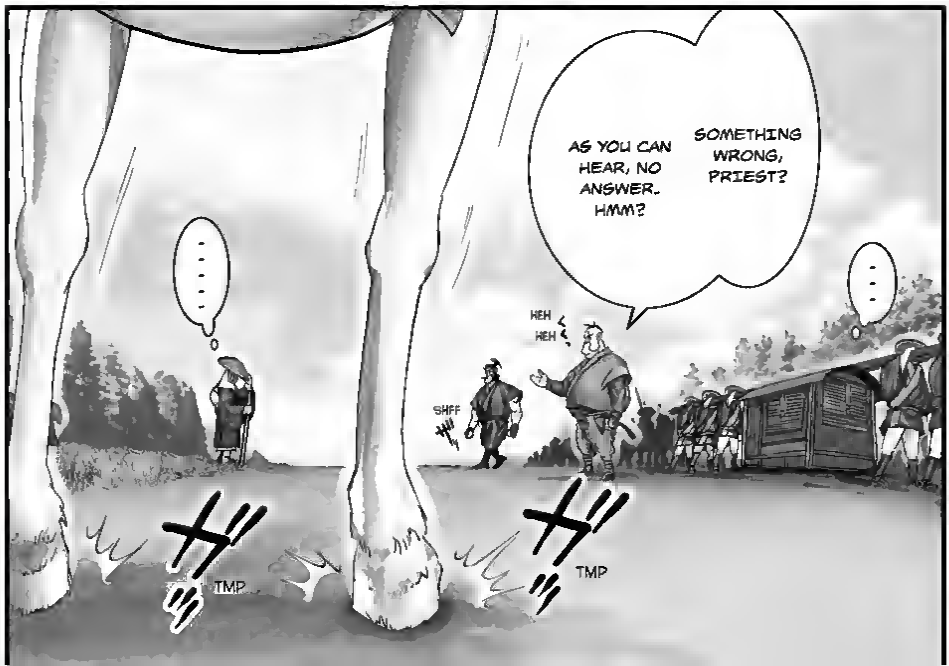

BUT WE MUST RESCUE THAT YOUNG GIRL.
WE MAY BE LATE...


THE KAMIYA GIRL FROM THE KOGA LODGINGS... OTONE.
THE GIRL IN THE LORD'S LITTER!

GIRL?
WHAT GIRL ARE YOU SPEAKING OF?


OTONE!
IF YOU ARE IN THERE, PLEASE ANSWER.
YOU MEDDLING PRIEST! I ADVISE YOU *NOT* TO SPEAK FURTHER!

MUFFLE
SHH!


SOMETHING WRONG, PRIEST?
AS YOU CAN HEAR, NO ANSWER. HMM?
HEH HEH
SHFF
TMP
TMP

RENSUKE, CUT HIM DOWN!

HO...
SHRUP
SHRUP

CHING
CHING

THESE ARE THE CHANTING PRIESTS THAT CAUSED US ALL THAT TROUBLE AT KASUKABE.

?
!!
!?
TRUDGE
?
STAND TO ONE SIDE!
DID YOU NOT SEE THE SPEARS AND CREST OF THE KATÔ HOUSE IN FRONT?!
WHAT? MORE PRIESTS!
.....

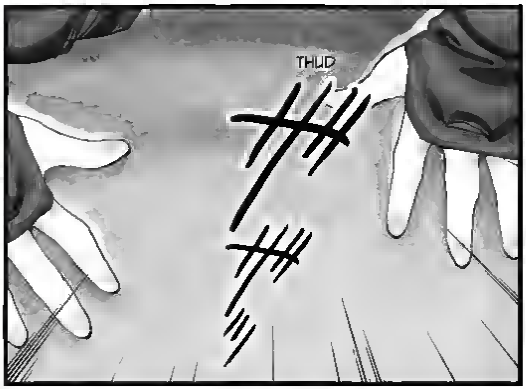
THE HIGH PRIEST
OH, THIS IS A RARE PLEASURE.
!?

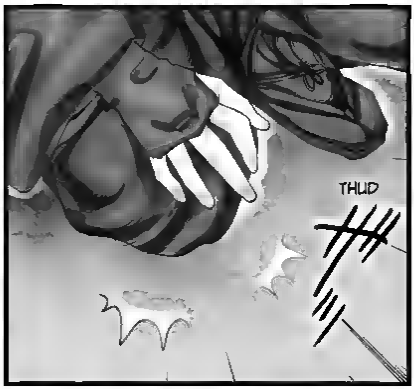
PRIEST?
HIGH...
STORY 43 END

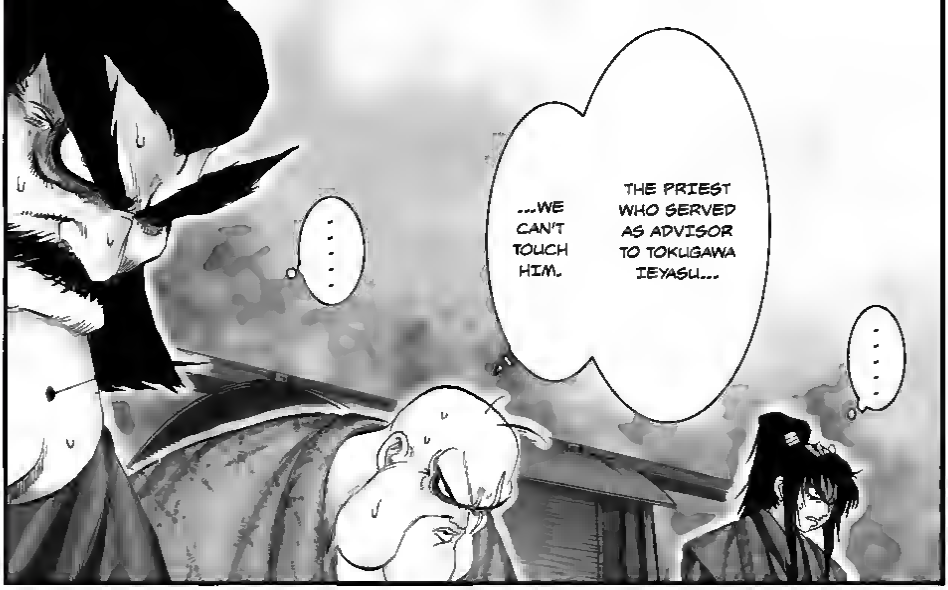
NORTH OF SHINDEN POST STATION
OI, REN-SUKE.
IT'S JUST SOME PRIESTS.
CLICK
CLICK
PRIEST ...?
AHEAD IS THE NIKKÔ ROAD...

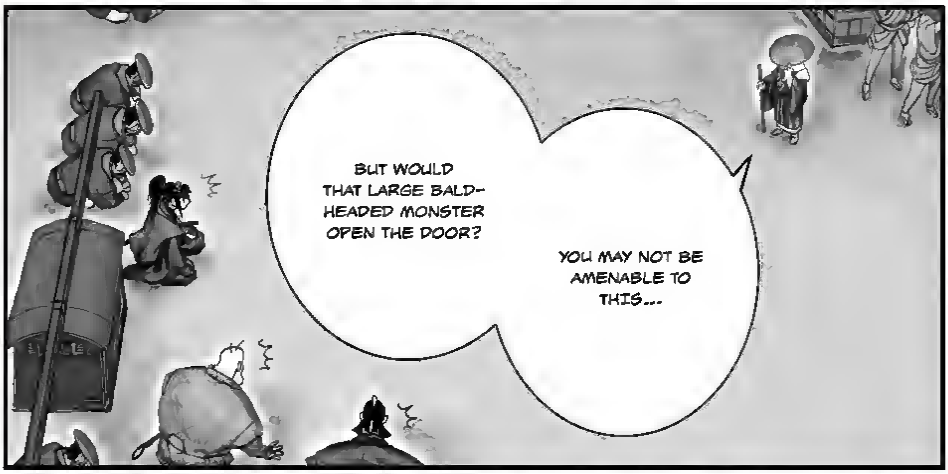
STORY 44: JOURNEY NORTH (5)

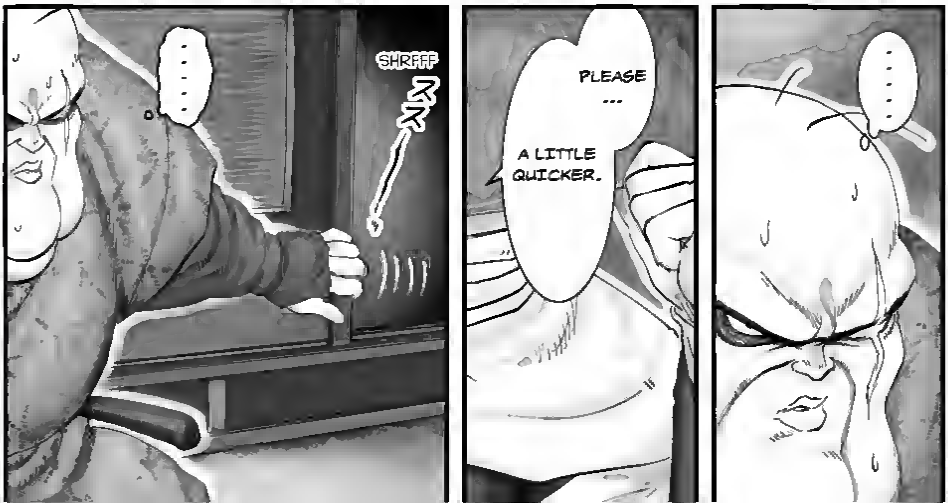
THE... HIGH PRIEST TENKAI?!
WHA...
!!


THUD

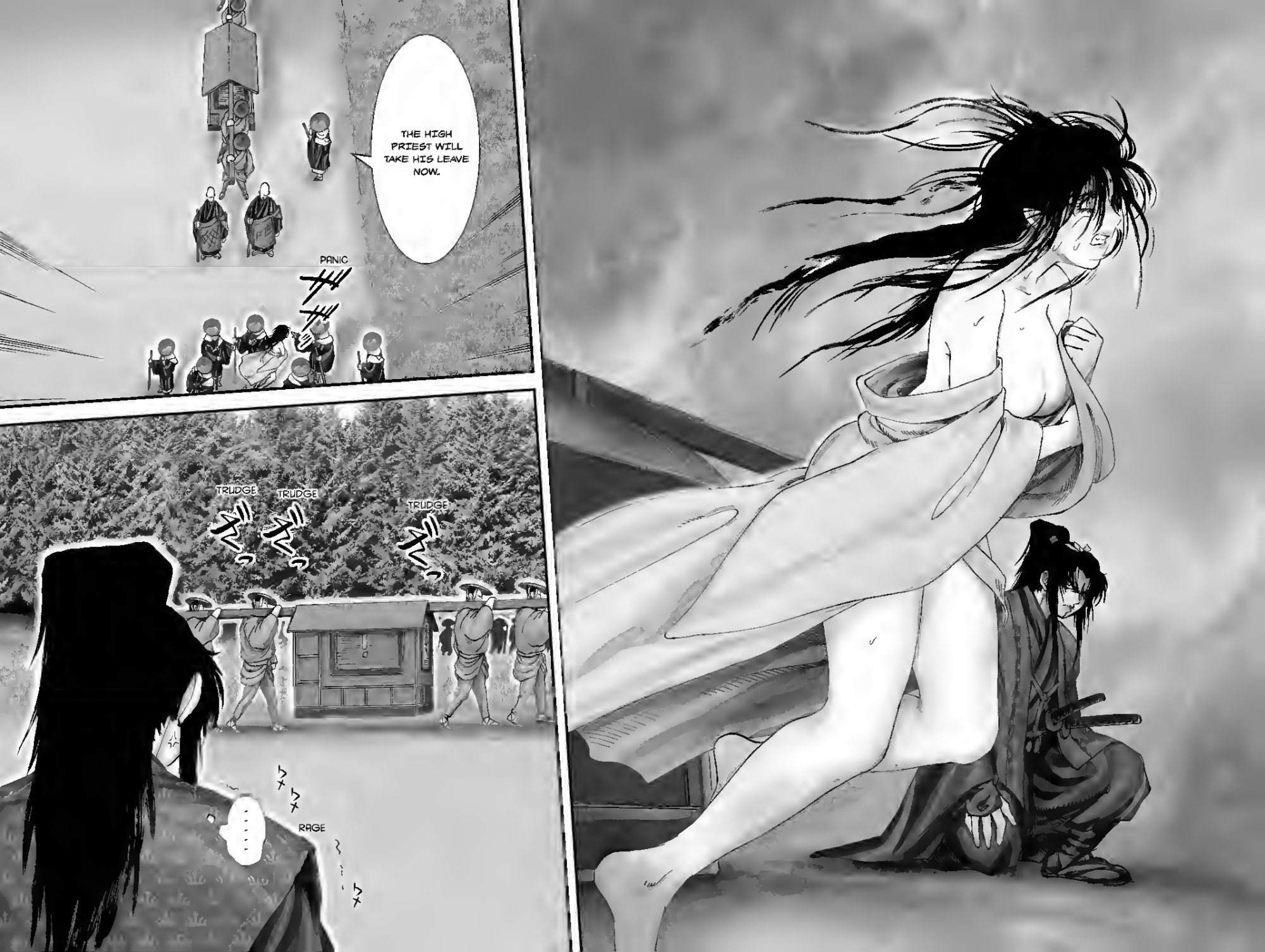

THUD


THE PRIEST WHO SERVED AS ADVISOR TO TOKUGAWA IEYASU...
...WE CAN'T TOUCH HIM.
.....
.....


BUT WOULD THAT LARGE BALD-HEADED MONSTER OPEN THE DOOR?
YOU MAY NOT BE AMENABLE TO THIS...


.....
SHRFFF
PLEASE ...
A LITTLE QUICKER.
.....

...
...
OTONE.
COME HERE.
NGH
BITE
HUH


THE HIGH PRIEST WILL TAKE HIS LEAVE NOW.
PANIC
TRUDGE
TRUDGE
TRUDGE
RAGE

STOP THERE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING SHOWING US NO RESPECT AND THEN MOVING ON!
SUCH INDIGNITY WILL NOT BE SUF-FERED!

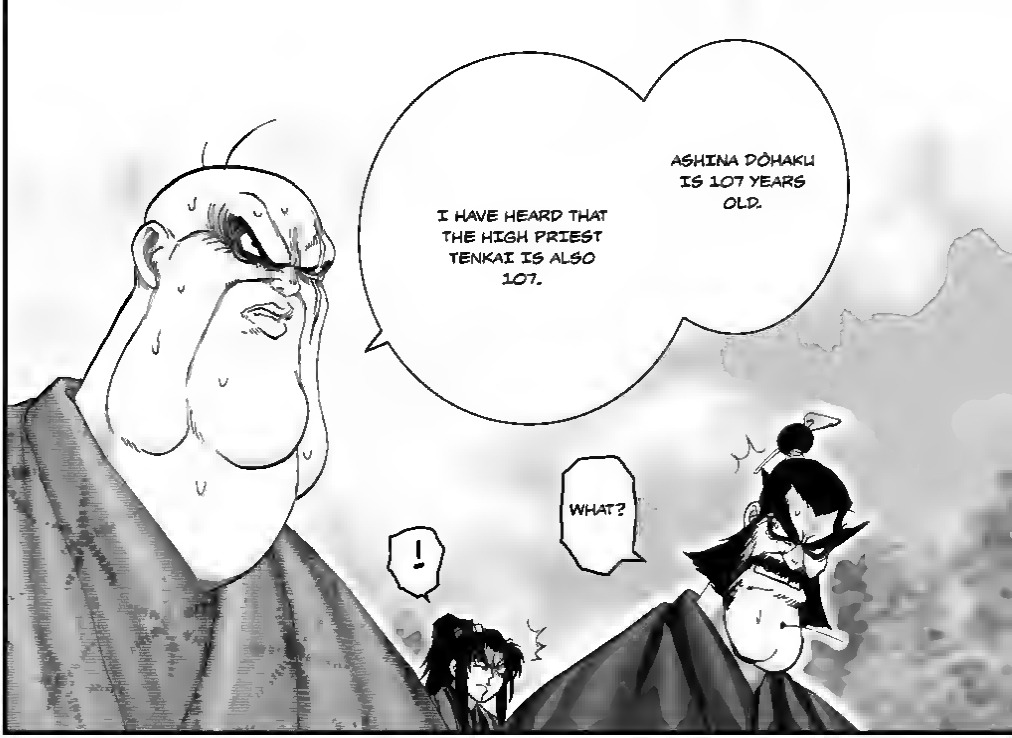
GIN... GINSHIRŌ!
STOP
ピタッ

I DIDN'T OPEN THE DOOR...
AS I HOPED NOT TO SHOW MY FACE...
SLIDE
カラ...
BUT I GUESS...
!!
YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE...
HMP.

AH!
ASHINA DÔHAKU!
NO... IT'S NOT.
SOMEONE ELSE.
DO...
DÔHAKU HAS BLACK... HAIR.

YOU ALSO KNOW...
...THE REMAINDER OF THE ASHINA CLAN?
!!
!?
ON YOUR RETURN, TELL DŌHAKU.
TELL HIM I'VE HEARD OF HIS WICKED DOINGS.
ASK HIM WHY HE IS INTENT ON RUINING THE NAME OF ASHINA.

TELL HIM...
HEITARÔ SAID...
.....
YOU KNOW ASHINA DÔHAKU!
HEI-TARÔ ...?
NOT JUST KNOW HIM...
APART FROM THE HAIR, HE IS THE MIRROR IMAGE OF HIM!

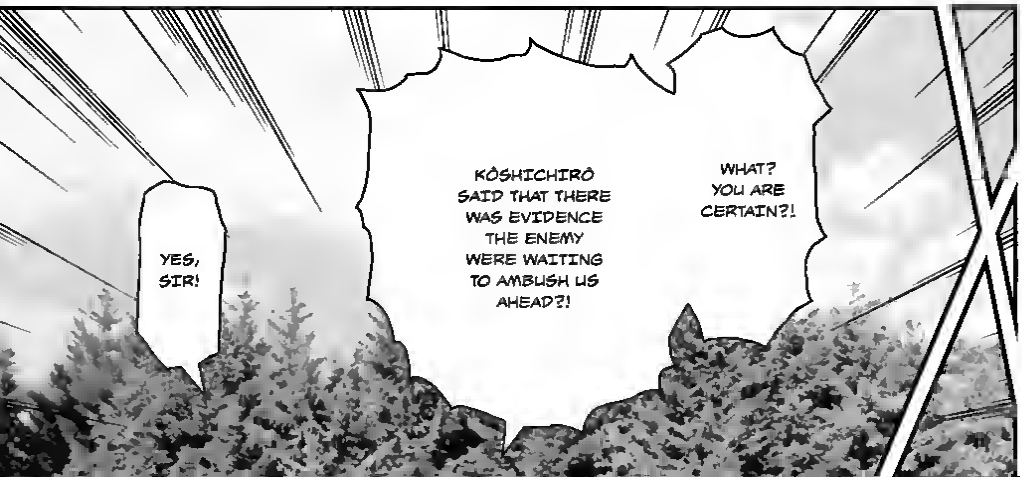

ASHINA DŌHAKU IS 107 YEARS OLD.
I HAVE HEARD THAT THE HIGH PRIEST TENKAI IS ALSO 107.
WHAT?
!

THEY'RE GONE!
HUH!
THE OTHER PRIESTS HAVE VANISHED!
ZAH

WHERE DID THOSE WANDERING PRIESTS GO THAT SPOKE WITH TENKAI!
THEY MAY KNOW MORE OF HIS BACKGROUND!

I'M GOING TO HUNT THEM DOWN!
THOSE PRIESTS ARE TOO SUSPI-CIOUS!
...
...

WE HAVE URGENT NEWS!
URGENT NEWS!
HMM?!
TMP
TMP
TMP
THE RIDERS WE SENT AHEAD?


YES, SIR!
KÔSHICHIRÔ SAID THAT THERE WAS EVIDENCE THE ENEMY WERE WAITING TO AMBUSH US AHEAD?!
WHAT? YOU ARE CERTAIN?!

LORD URUSHI ...
WE LEFT HIM AT THE KITSURE RIVER, HE WENT ON TO INFORM AIZU.

GINSHIRÔ, YOU GO AHEAD!
LEAVE IT TO ME.
DA
DA

I THOUGHT THAT THE HANNYA MASK WOULDN'T BE THE END OF IT!
THE ENEMY HAVE GOT AHEAD OF US!
SWOOSH

HAVE THEY GONE?
YES...
SHRUUP
RUSTLE
LOOKS LIKE WE DID IT.
SHAKE
SHAKE
DRIP

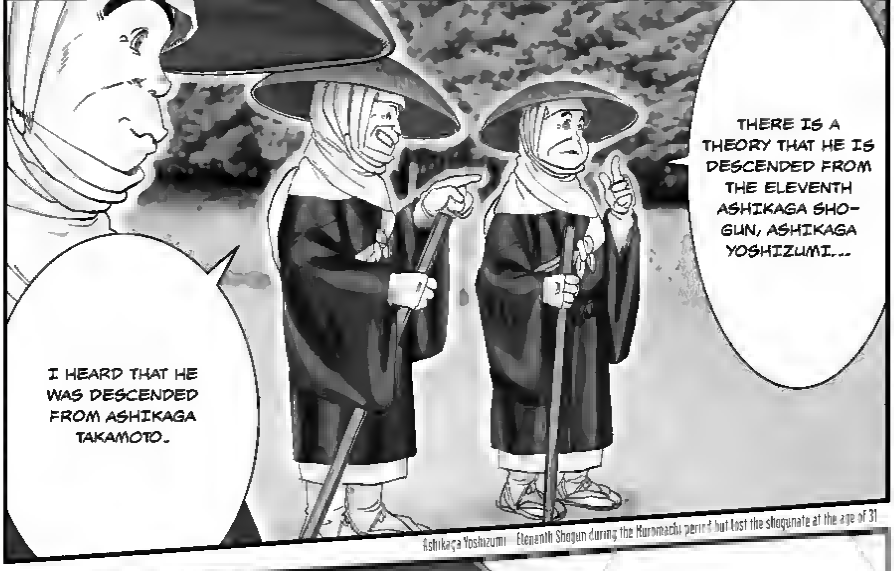
STORY 44 END

STORY 45: JOURNEY NORTH (6)

TAKUAN-SAMA...
SO YOU KNOW TENKAI-SAMA WELL?
.....
YES
I GET ON VERY WELL WITH HIM BUT...
BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT I DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT HIM.
HOW... HOW...
...OLD IS HE NOW?
WHEN I WAS BORN...
ABOUT SEVENTY YEARS AGO, HE HELPED CONVERT TAKEDA SHINGEN.

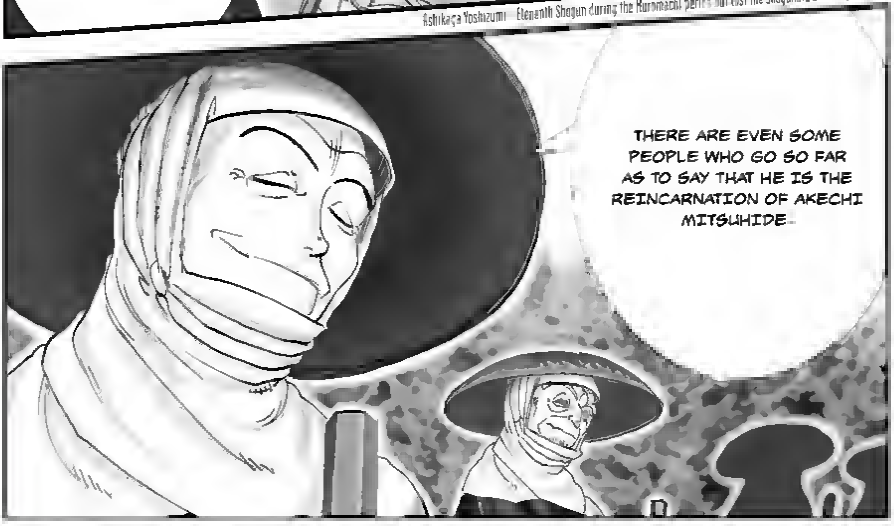
HE MUST BE A HUNDRED...AND SEVEN.
UWAAAAH!

HE'S LIKE A SUPERHUMAN.
OF COURSE...
EVEN HIGH PRIEST TENKAI'S BIRTH IS QUITE A MYSTERY.


I HEARD THAT HE WAS DESCENDED FROM ASHIKAGA TAKAMOTO.
THERE IS A THEORY THAT HE IS DESCENDED FROM THE ELEVENTH ASHIKAGA SHOGUN, ASHIKAGA YOSHIZUMI...

Ashikaga Takamoto - A powerful man during the Muromachi period. Although he shared the name of the ruling shogun, they had different fathers

Ashikaga Yoshizumi - Eleventh Shogun during the Muromachi period but lost the shogunate at the age of 31



Akechi Mitsuhide - Betrayed his lord at a famous incident at Honnoji but was defeated ten days later

THERE IS ONE MORE THEORY...
THAT THE HIGH PRIEST TENKAI IS RELATED TO THE ASHINA CLAN OF AIZU THAT WAS DEFEATED DURING THE WARRING STATES PERIOD.

IF THAT IS TRUE JYUBEI...
...THEN THIS IS ANOTHER INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT.
WE MUST REMAIN VIGILANT.
YES.
IF WE DON'T CONSIDER THIS SERIOUSLY THEN WE MAY LOSE EVERY-THING...
WE MAY BE FACING A TERRIFYING ENEMY.
ZAH

TAP
TAP
TAP
AIZU ECHIGO ROAD
A FEW DAYS LATER
WOW, IT'S SO BEAUTI-FUL.
THE FALL LEAVES ARE SO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE AT EDO.
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
PEOPLE ALL HAVE THE SAME BAD HABITS... VERY TEDIOUS.
YOU COULD WALK A HUNDRED RI IN NATURE AND NEVER GET BORED.
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
猪苗代湖
INAWASHIROKO
会津
AIZU
勢至峠
SEISHI PASS
永沼
ANYŌ
上小屋
YAMAGOYA
飯土用
IITOYO
SHIRAKAWA
白河
NASU
芦野
ŌTAWARA
大田原
NIKKO
日光
KITSUREGAWA
喜連川

PUFF
PUFF

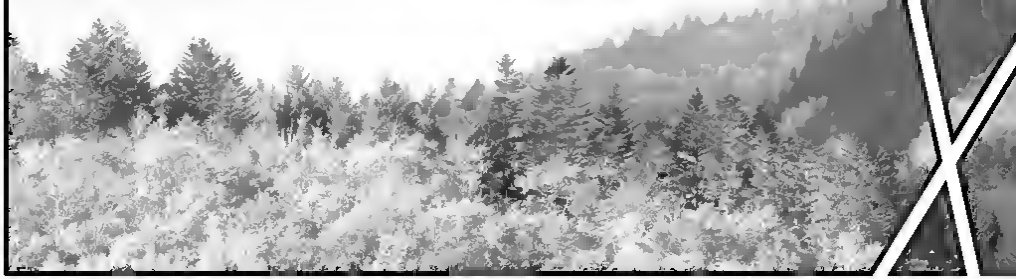
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD...
SLIP
OSAWA
FWOOO
SNORE
RUSTLE
...SLEEP WELL..
JYUBEI-SAMA
ZZZ

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MORNING
WIPE WIPE WIPE
SPLASH
SPLASH

OSHINA
ISUU

HUH
HMM ...?
ZZZ
...
...

SU SU
BLINK
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
GOOD MORNING YOU TWO.
OH
FWIIP
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
?
SCRATCH
SCRATCH



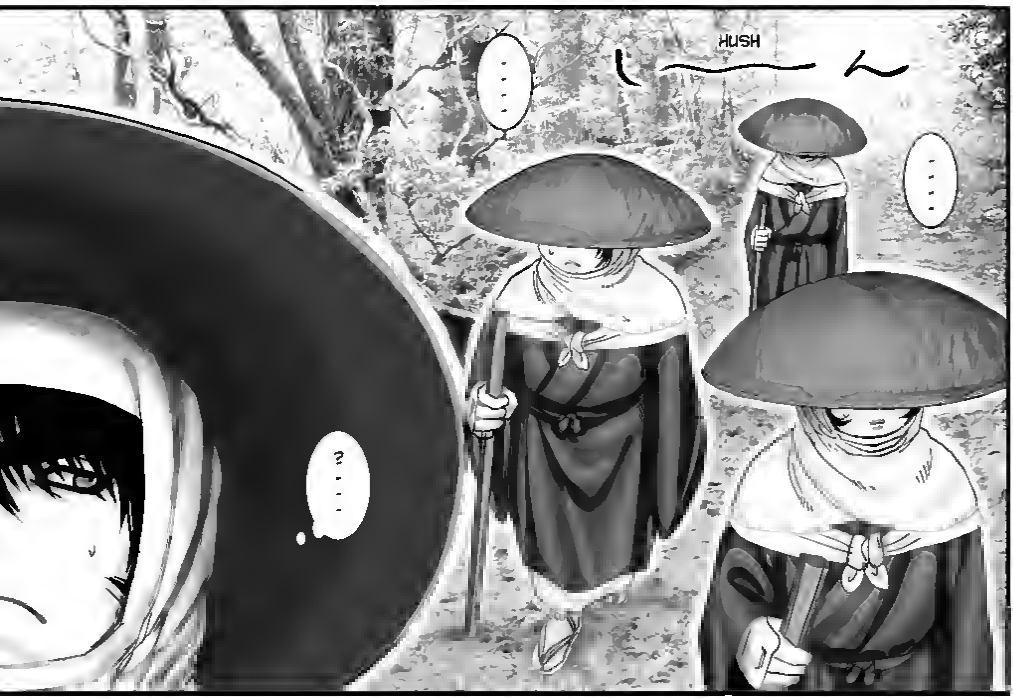
TAP

OTORI.
I WONDER HOW OCHIE AND THE OTHERS ARE NOW.
OKEI

. . . .
ANYTHING TO WASH?
IS IT YOUR TURN TODAY, OTORI?
YES!
IF YOU HAVE ANY SOCKS OR UNDERWEAR THEN LET ME WASH THEM FOR YOU.
SMILE
SMILE

BUT IT'S MY TURN...
OH?
...UMM, WHERE IS OKEI...
I THINK SHE'S BY THE SMALL STREAM.
HM?
OKEI IS WASHING IT AT THE MOMENT.
DRIP
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH

.....

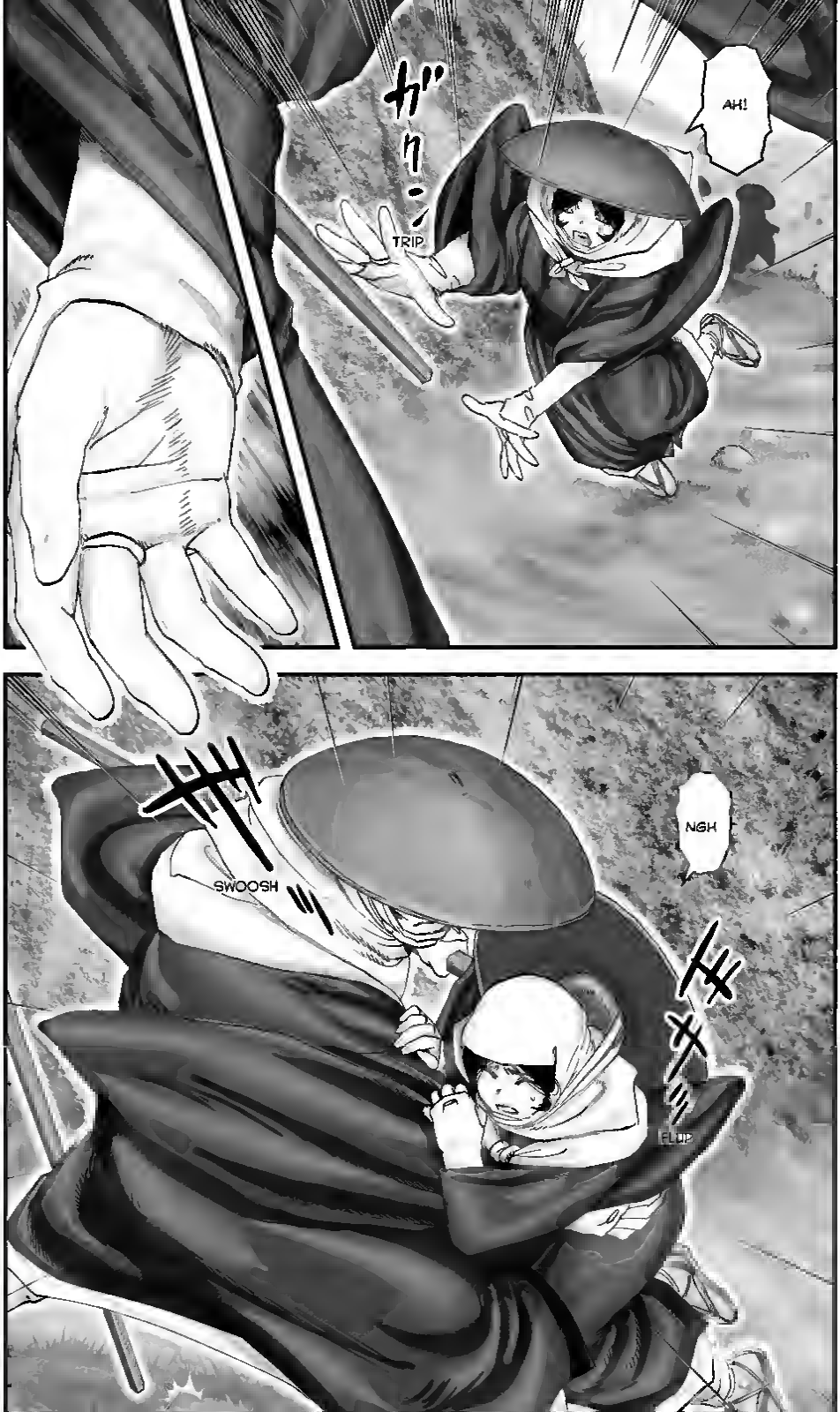

HUSH
.....
.....
?....

DADADA

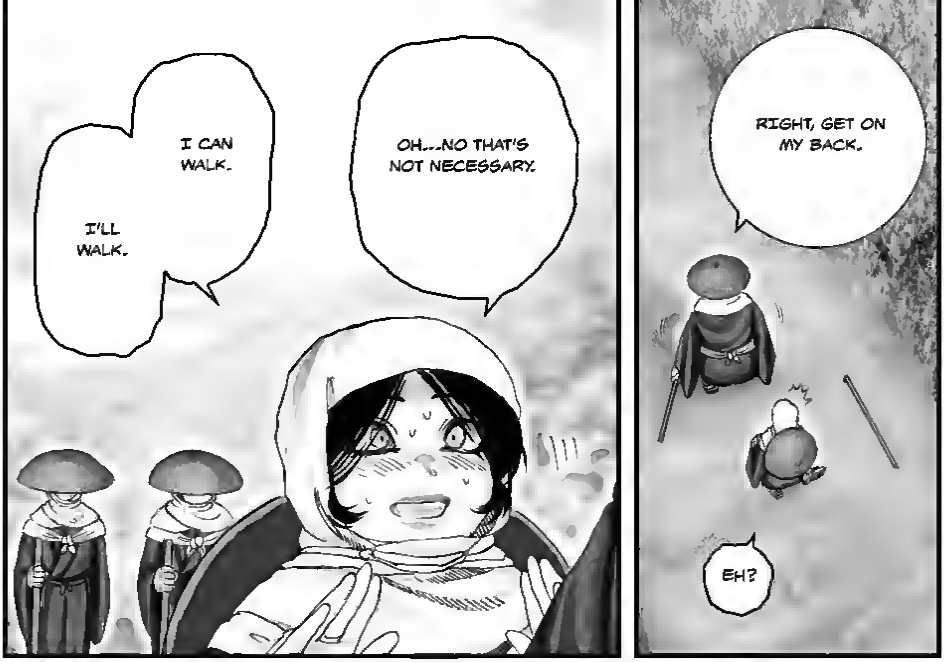
猪苗代湖
INAWASHIROKO
会津
AIZU
勢至峠
SEISHI PASS
永沼
AINYO
上小屋
YAMAGOYA
飯土用
IITOYO
SCOUTING AHEAD. WASHINOSU RENSUKE
AKINARI'S ENTOURAGE
SHIRAKAWA
白河
NASU
芦野
TAKUAN'S GROUP
OTAWARA
大田原
NIKKŌ
日光
KITSUREGAWA
喜連川
JYŪBEI'S GROUP

DADADA
DADADA
DADADA

!?
TWIST
グキッ
AH!
TRIP
ｶﾞ
ﾝ
!!
STORY 45 END


AH!
TRIP
NGH
SWOOSH
FLIP

STORY 46: JOURNEY NORTH (7)
PATTER
PATTER
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
GLORIOUS!
GLORIOUS!
NGH ...
WHAT IS IT?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, OKEI?
AH...
Y-YES.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S SPRAINED.
MY RIGHT ANKLE.


I'LL WALK.
I CAN WALK.
OH...NO THAT'S NOT NECESSARY.
RIGHT, GET ON MY BACK.
EH?

YOU NEED TO LOOK AFTER YOURSELF IN CASE THE ENEMY ATTACKS. YOU MUST REST THIS INJURY.
WALKING ON A SPRAIN WILL ONLY MAKE IT WORSE.
THAT'S NO GOOD.

SHAKE
Y-YES...
WELL...

IN...
IN FRONT OF ENEMY TERRITORY!
SPRAINING AN ANKLE IS A TERRIBLE FAILURE ON OKEI'S PART!
CLENCH

JYUBEI-SAMA IS!
WE ARE NOT THE IMPORTANT ONES.
EVEN IF THAT WASN'T THE CASE, WE HAVE ASKED SO MUCH FROM JYUBEI-SAMA ALREADY...
...
...AND NOW WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ASKING HIM TO CARRY YOU, TOO! OKEI!

?
DON'T...PUT IT LIKE THAT...
AKINARI'S ENTOURAGE HAS WALKED FIFTY MILES FROM EDO. THERE ARE MEN THERE WHO WILL HAVE SPRAINED THEIR ANKLE TOO...

IT...
IT WAS MY FAILURE...

HMM?

INSTEAD, I'LL THINK IT'S MY LUCKY DAY. PUT A SPRING IN MY STEP!
BESIDES, I'M NOT ONE TO BE TIRED OUT BY CARRYING ONE TINY GIRL!
HEH HEH HEH
TAP

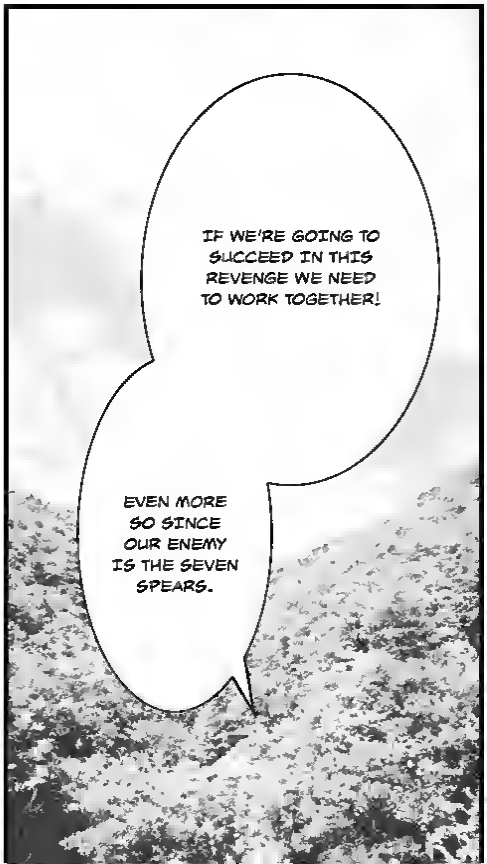
I'LL WALK!
.....
IF I CAN'T WALK...
THEN YOU MUST LEAVE ME BEHIND!

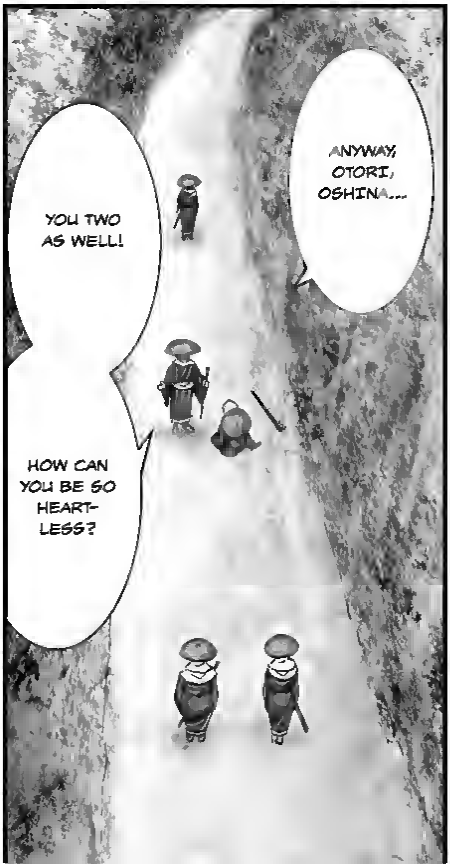
I WILL WAIT HERE... AND AMBUSH AKINARI... IF I CAN INJURE ONE OF THE SEVEN SPEARS THEN...
...THEN I WILL BE ABLE TO DIE HAPPILY WITH THAT SATISFAC-TION...

.....
HOW DO YOU PLAN ON AVENGING THE ENEMY?

EVEN A DEATH IN VAIN...
WOULD BE FINE FOR ME.
THIS IS NON-SENSE!
IF YOU DIE THAT EASILY, THEN MY HARD WORK WILL HAVE GONE TO WASTE...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
DYING IN VAIN WILL BE A WASTE OF EVERYTHING!
ARGH!
ENOUGH OF YOUR CHILDISH GIBBERISH!

. . . . . .
IF YOU BEHAVE ANY MORE SPOILED THAN THIS THEN I'LL DRAG YOU INSTEAD.


IF WE'RE GOING TO SUCCEED IN THIS REVENGE WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER!
EVEN MORE SO SINCE OUR ENEMY IS THE SEVEN SPEARS.


ANYWAY, OTORI, OSHINA...
YOU TWO AS WELL!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO HEART-LESS?

YOUR PARENTS MAY BE DIFFERENT. YOUR HUSBANDS MAY BE DIFFERENT.
BUT IN THIS REVENGE AREN'T YOU ALL SISTERS?
IS THAT NOT SO?

JYUBEI-SAMA...
BUT...
.....
WHAT?
?

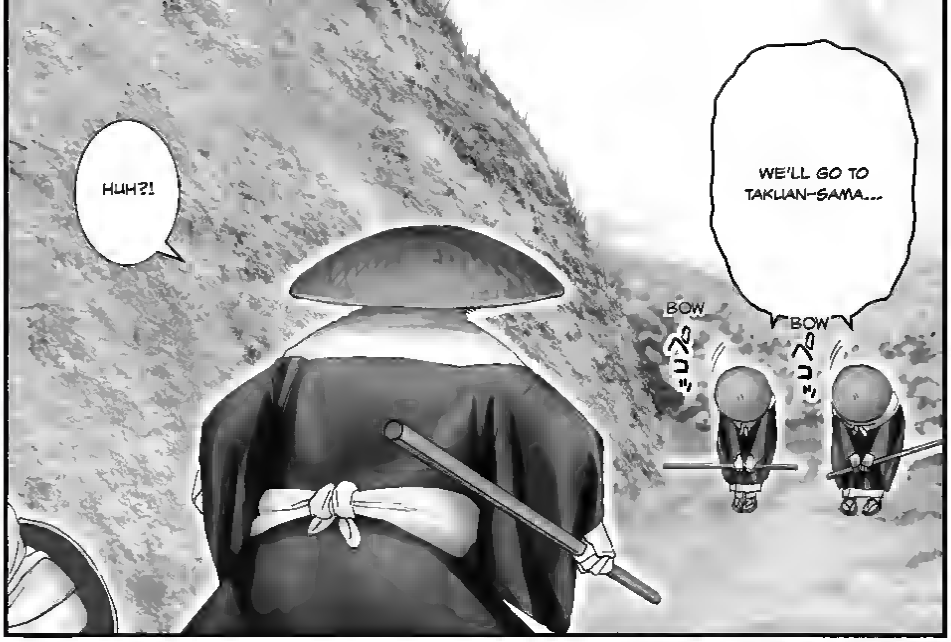
...WHA...
IT'S ONLY OKEI...
SHAKE
...THAT YOU'RE SO KIND TO.
IT WAS ALL... SINCE OKEI PRETENDED TO BE YOUR BRIDE...

I-
D-
I-
O-
T-
S!
SWOOSH

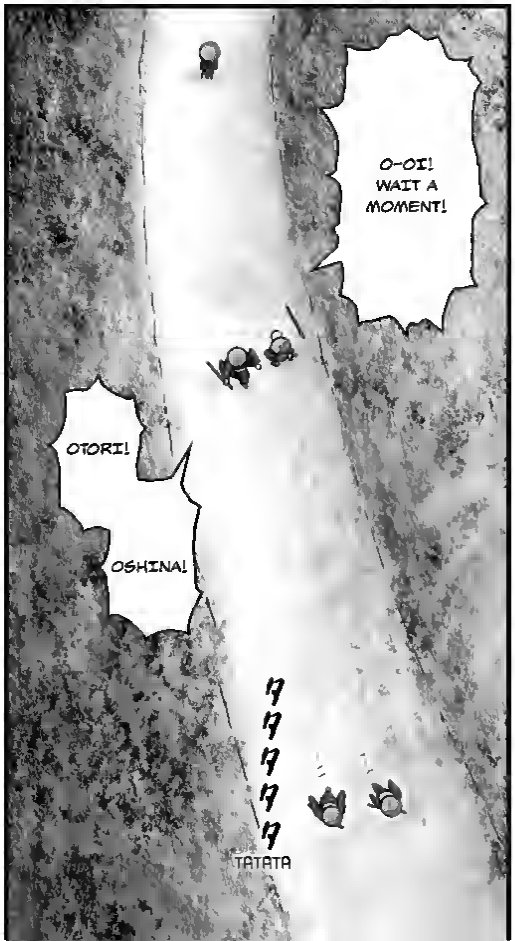
YOU'VE LET YOUR IMAGINATIONS RUN WILD!
QUIVER
QUIVER
QUIVER
WHAT IS THIS...
WHA
WHAT

SWISH
SWISH
SWISH
WHEN DO YOU THINK I HAVE TIME FOR SUCH FAVORITISM?!
I'VE HAD MY WORK CUT OUT HELPING YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GREAT REVENGE.

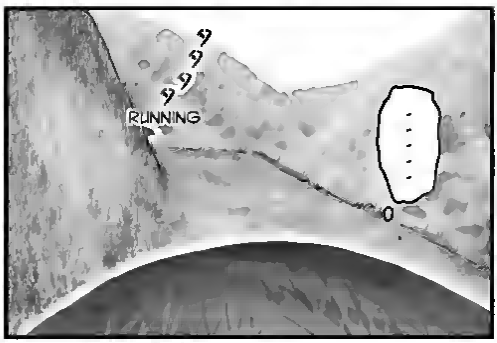
PLEASE...
...IF MASTER TAKUAN WERE HERE...
HE WOULD KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH THIS.
WE'LL...
WE'LL GO...
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
WHAT?

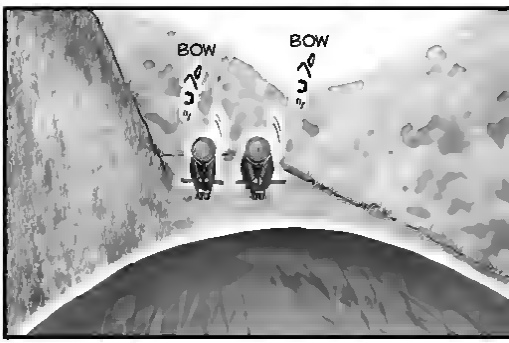

HUH?!
WE'LL GO TO TAKUAN-SAMA...
BOW
BOW

ICK...
QUIVER
QUIVER
TROUBLESOME WOMEN!


O-OI! WAIT A MOMENT!
OTORI!
OSHINA!
TATATA

OI!
DON'T TRY AND TAKE ON AKINARI!
HIDE YOURSELF AND LET THEM PASS!
HEAR ME?!


RUNNING
...


BOW
BOW

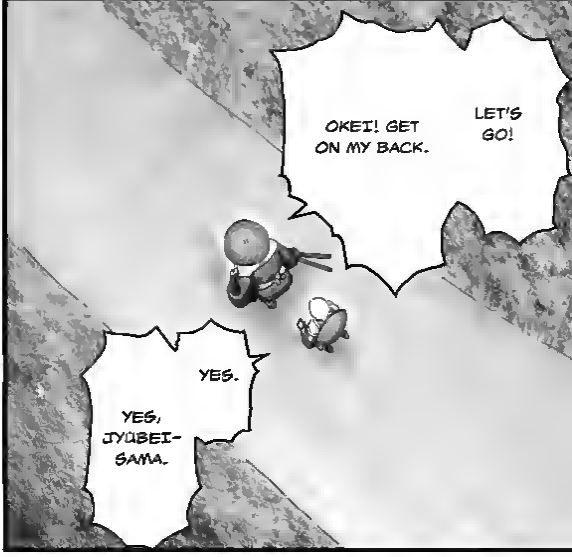
...
GLANCE

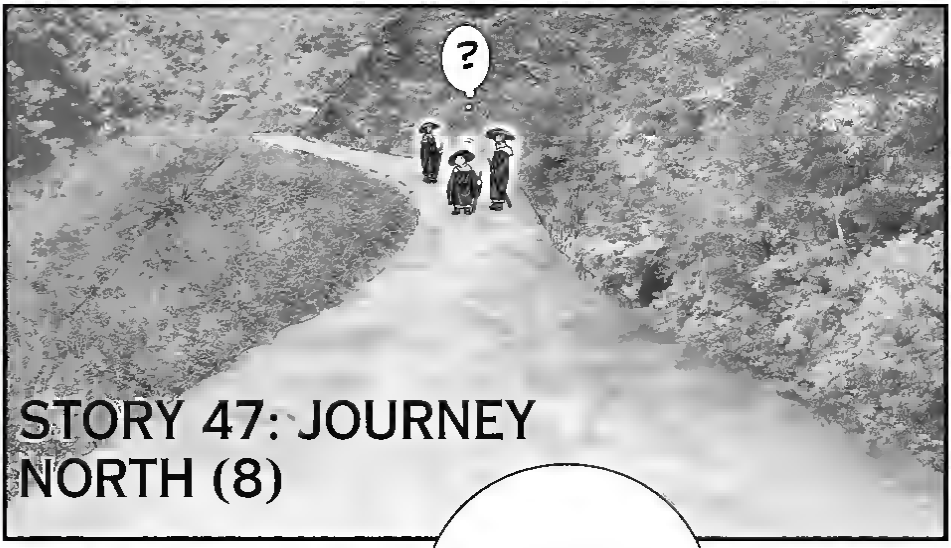
REALLY...
...STRANGE...

O... OSAWA... YOU AT LEAST...
DON'T THINK THAT I'VE BEEN KINDER TO OKEI?

I THINK APART FROM ME... YOU'RE KIND TO EVERY-ONE...
I THINK...
TURN
AH...
RUNNING
STORY 46 END

AH ...
RUNNING
I THINK APART FROM ME... YOU'RE KIND TO EVERYONE...
I THINK ...
UH...
...AH...
NGH





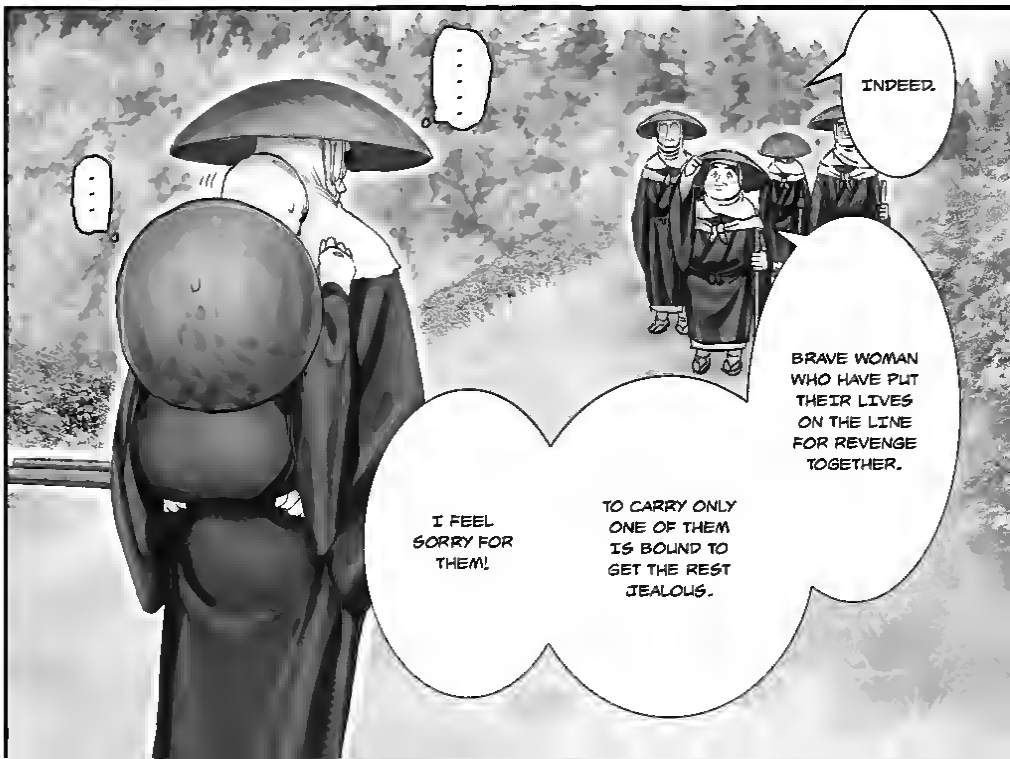
STORY 47: JOURNEY NORTH (8)

OSAWA!
ZRH
RUNNING
HMM? THAT'S...
GLAD TO SEE YOU.
HMM? WHERE ARE MASTER JYUBEI AND THE OTHERS...
I...
I DON'T KNOW ...
?

PLODDING
PLODDING
MASTER JYUBEI!
!
PLODDING
WHY IS OKEI ON YOUR BACK?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN...
AH...
OKEI SPRAINED HER ANKLE A MOMENT AGO...
...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF.
BUT THEY SUDDENLY RAN OFF TO FIND MASTER TAKUAN...
...
I SEE.
OH? AND OSHINA AND OTORI...
HOHO.
ARE THEY SULKING BECAUSE YOU'RE CARRYING OKEI?
...
PEEK

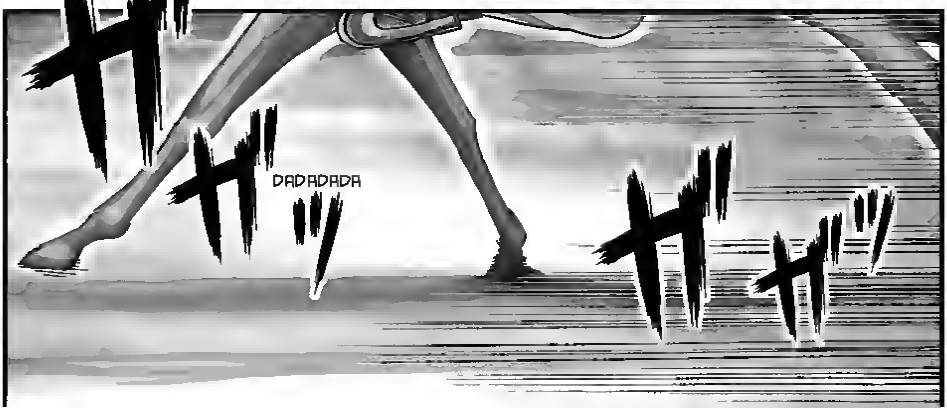
WELL WELL.
YOU SHOULD TRY NOT TO GET ANGRY.
THEY CAME OUT WITH SOME-THING ALONG THOSE LINES...
...I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY'RE BEING SO CHILDISH!


INDEED.
BRAVE WOMAN WHO HAVE PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR REVENGE TOGETHER.
TO CARRY ONLY ONE OF THEM IS BOUND TO GET THE REST JEALOUS.
I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM!

WELL THEN.
SHALL WE TAKE CARE OF THE SWORDS AND YOU TAKE CARE OF THE WOMEN?
DON'T MOCK ME...
わはははは
HYUK HYUK HYUK
WOMEN ARE FAR MORE FRIGHTENING THAN ANY SWORD.
MASTER JYUBEI
...
RUNNING
RUNNING
TO EMBARRASS OURSELVES LIKE THAT....
IN FRONT OF JYUBEI-SAMA....
NGH

HIS FACE WAS SO FULL OF DISGUST...
AAHH ...

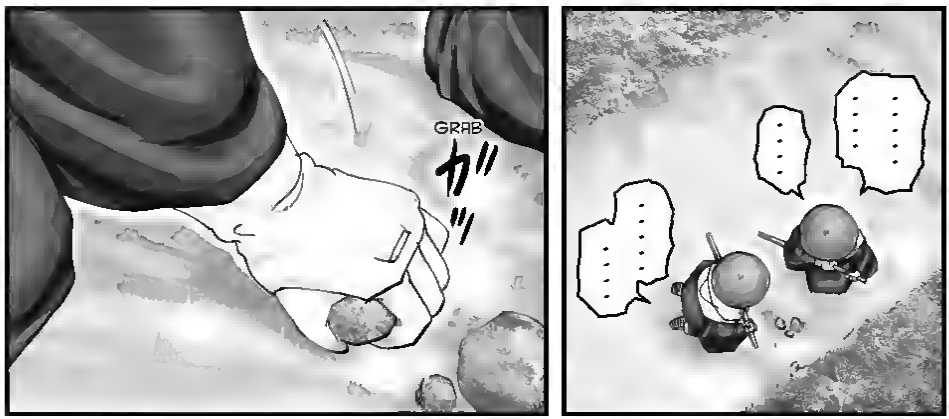
DADADADA
I WISH THE GROUND HAD SWALLOWED ME UP...


DADADADA

HM?!
WHAT IS IT, MASTER JYUBEI?
?
THE SOUND OF HOOVES...
IT'S A WARRIOR RIDING!
!?
IT'S ONLY ONE HORSE... IT'S FARAWAY... BUT IT'S FAST.
!!
NO!
THOSE HOOVES ARE BLOOD-THIRSTY!
ONE OF KATÓ'S SCOUTS?
.....

DADADA
THERE!
OH!
DADADA
WASHINOSU RENSUKE!

SHALL WE REPORT IT TO JYUBEI-SAMA?
NOT ENOUGH TIME!
HIS HORSE IS GOING FASTER THAN WE COULD RUN.
SO...?


GRAB
ガッ
.....
.....

DADADADA
ガッ
ガッ
ガッ
ガッ

DADA
DADADADA
DADADADA

KYUN
KYUN
SHRUP
DADA
DADADA
HAH?!
ZWIIIISH
THUD
DADA
SWOOSH

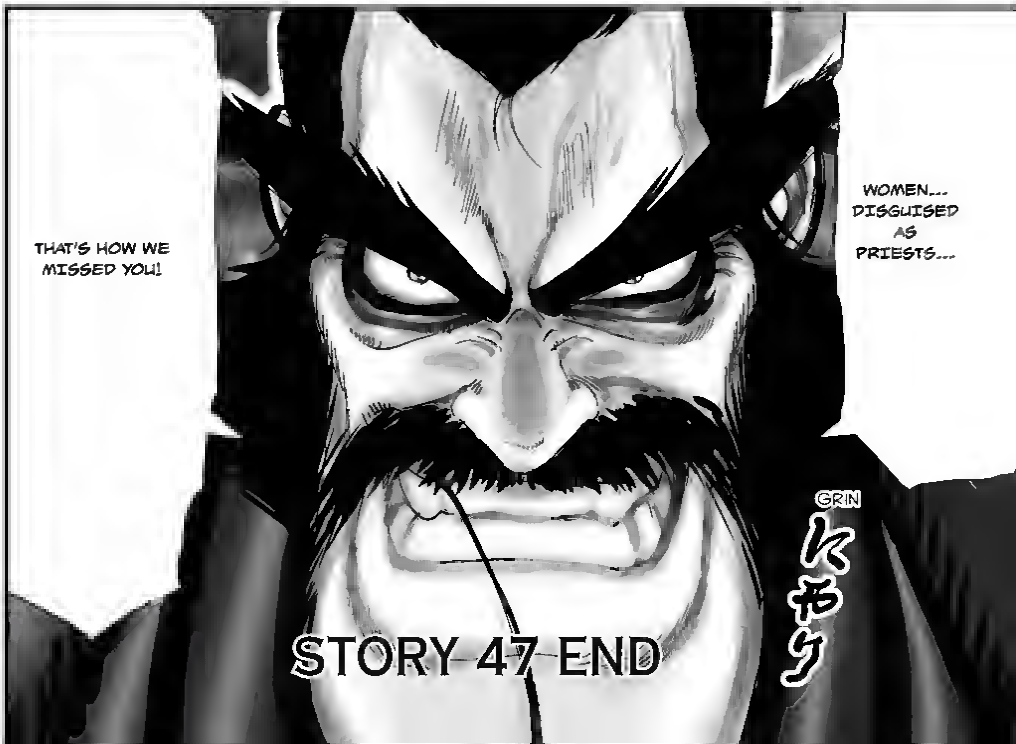
RATATATATA
RATATATATA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA

WE DEFEATED WASHINOSU RENSUKE!
RUNNING
RUSTLE
WE DID IT!

HOHO.
HO.
HUH
!?

DID YOU NOW?

GASP
PLUNK


THAT'S HOW WE MISSED YOU!
WOMEN... DISGUISED AS PRIESTS...
GRIN
にやり

STORY 47 END

THUNK
CHING
PITA
PITA
HOHO.
GOOD FOOTWORK FOR WOMEN.

STORY 48: JOURNEY NORTH (9)

YAAAAAH
HYUUUUN
ORAAAAH
GAH
FIRST THE WOMEN'S SWORDS!

BITA
BITA
HYUUUN
NGH
WHUMP
OOF

ガッ
DROP
THUD
CHING
カチャ
カチャ
CHING
HEH HEH.
YOIP
UG... GH...
YOU SHOULD KNOW YOUR LIMITS.
YOUR SKILLS WEREN'T SHARP ENOUGH... OR SHOULD I SAY YOUR SWORDS WEREN'T.
CHING
カチャ
CHING
カチャ
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS...

WELL THEN...
TELL ME WHERE THE OTHERS ARE!
I GUESS YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THOUGH.
HMPH

WELL THEN.
GRIN
ニヤリ
I'VE GOT AN INTERESTING IDEA.

PLOP
RIP
RIP
I SHOULD DRESS UP LIKE A WANDERING PRIEST, TOO!
SWOOSH
HERE WE GO!
YANK
PULL
PULL
A HUMAN SHIELD TO PROTECT ME.

AAAH...
AH
TWIST
TWIST
NGH...
STANDS
A PRIEST'S HABIT MADE OF WOMEN!

SWISH
OOH
THIS IS SPLEN-DID!
SWISH
AH AH
AH AH
AH

I HEARD NEWS OF AN ATTRACTIVE CONCUBINE WHO REACHED THE HOUSE OF AIZU.
BUT YOU EXCEED MY EXPECTATIONS!
DOES IT HURT? OTORI?
THEN SCREAM OUT!
SCREAM AS LOUD AS YOU CAN! CALL YOUR FRIENDS HERE!
'SWISH'

ONE OF THE AIZU SEVEN SPEARS, WASHINOSU RENSUKE IS HERE!
NGH
HANNYA MASK!
COME OUT, COME OUT!
WHER-EVER YOU ARE!
DOSU
DOSU
AH!
HORI WOMEN!
CLENCH

THIS IS MY FAULT...
I WAS THE ONE WHO LET THEM GO!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, MASTER JYUBEI?
GRIP
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HANNYA?!
DO YOU NOT VALUE THEIR LIVES?!
!
RUSTLE

I'M GOING TO SAVE THEM, OF COURSE!
THEN I...
...WILL BARGAIN THEIR LIVES FOR MINE.
BEFORE YOU GET CLOSE...
HE'LL KILL THEM AND ALL WILL BE IN VAIN.

IT WAS MY MISTAKE FOR LETTING THEM GO...
IF I SURRENDER MY KATANA AND KNEEL TO HIM...
IF I DO AS HE SAYS.
GRIP
ぎゅっ
THEN MAYBE I CAN SAVE OSHINA AND OTORI'S LIVES!
WELL... I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU'RE FEELING.
BUT THAT WILL JUST RESULT IN ALL THREE OF YOU BEING KILLED.
INDEED ...

ARE YOU SCARED? COWARD!
...WOULD BE TO MAKE THE ENEMY EVEN MORE CAUTIOUS.
THE ONLY THING THAT RUNNING IN WILL ACHIEVE...
COME OUT, HANNYA!

YES...
THEN, CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT I SHOULD DO?!

RESCUE THE TWO OF THEM.
WE MAY BE ABLE TO...

YOU...
YOU... PRIESTS ?!
STORY 48 END

YOU... PRIESTS ?!
HOW CAN YOU SAVE THEM?
MASTER JYUBEI ...
KAMIIZUMI ISENOKAMI
YOU KNOW THE STORY, DON'T YOU?
HOW HE RESCUED THE CHILD FROM THE VILLAIN IN THE STOREHOUSE.

Jyubei tells this story himself in volume three

THAT YOU'RE GOING TO COPY MASTER ISENOKAMI?!
YOU CAN'T BE THINKING...
OF COURSE I KNOW IT!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, HANNYA!
ABANDONED OSHINA AND OTORI?

OSAWA, OKEI.
MAY WE BORROW YOUR SWORDS?

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE...
...A SWORD?

...AS MASTER ISENOKAMI.
OH NO. I'M AFRAID WE COULD NEVER BE AS CLEVER...
YES, INDEED.
RAGE
イラ
イラ
WHERE ARE THEY GOING WITH THIS?

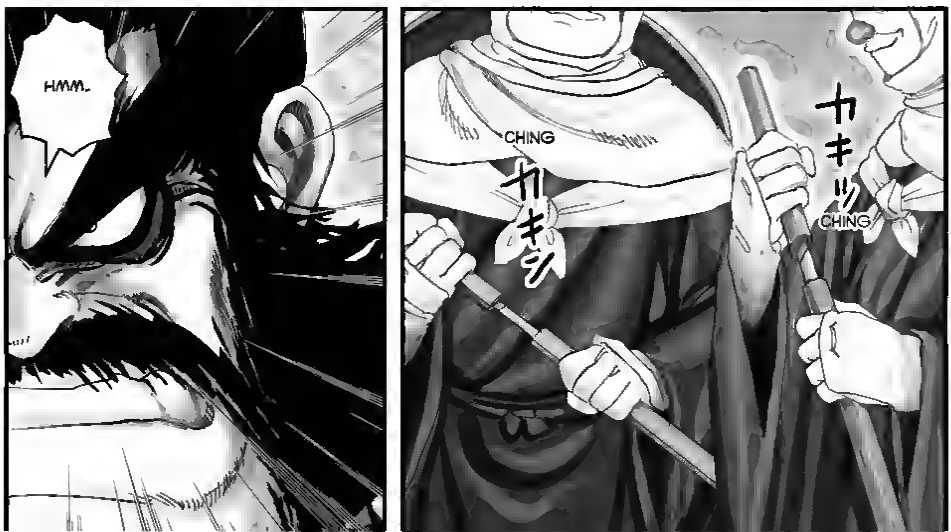
THONK
コン
NO OF COURSE NOT! WE ONLY KNOW THE ART OF ZEN!
BUT, IN THE ART OF USING THE SWORD AND ZEN TOGETHER AS ONE, MASTER TAKUAN IS AN EXCELLENT TEACHER.
WE SHALL SHOW YOU PART OF THE ESSENCE OF THAT SKILL, MASTER JYUBEI.

HYUK HYUK
.....
IF WE CAN GET THEM THE SWORDS THEN ALL WILL BE WELL.
SLIP
SLIP
WE'RE GOING TO SAVE FAIR MAIDENS!
THIS MAY BE THE FIRST TIME WE'VE HAD WOMEN TROUBLES, TAMONBÔ.
GRIN
GRIN
SLIP
AH?

STORY 49 JOURNEY NORTH (10)
HANGING
YOU LEFT ME WAITING!
HANNYA!
NGH
HANGING
HANGING
HANGING
AH!
OH
SLIP
OOF
SLIP
OOF
SLIP
OOF
SLIP
OOF
SLIP
HM ?!
THUNK
THUNK
HE'S HERE!

YES, FINE, FINE.
RIGHT THEN, TO BUSINESS ...
OH THAT HURT.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

WHO ARE THEY...
.....


HMM.
CHING
カキッ
カキッ
CHING

カラ
THUNK
ラン
THUD
カン

?
WHAT SWORD STYLE IS THIS?
WHAT IS THIS?!

NGH ---
WHO ARE YOU?
OWWW...
TAP
TAP
とん
とん
CREAK
ヒョコ
CREAK
STAGGER
スタ
STAGGER
スタ
FRIENDS OF HANNYA?!
SHRUF
シュ
SHRUF
シュ
SMILE
スタ
SMILE
スタ

THEY'RE ROOKIES!
THESE TWO CAN'T BE SERIOUS... THEY CAN'T MEAN TO KILL ME...
PAT
ヒタ
...HOW-EVER, YOU...
YOU CAN'T BE COMPLETE IDIOTS?
ヒタ
PAT
PAT
ヒタ
PAT
ヒタ
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
IF I CAN CAPTURE THEM, THEN MAYBE I CAN MAKE THEM TELL ME WHERE THE OTHERS ARE...
NO, NOT US.
ポロ
DROP
ポロ
DROP

WASHINOSU RENSUKE.
YOU WOULD BE THE FOOL HERE.
OSHINA, THE SWORD!
TAKE IT! OTORI!
OOOOOOH
CHING
CHING

CRUNCH
SPLATTER
TUG
TUG
SWOOSH
WHACK
CHING
CHING
WOOSH

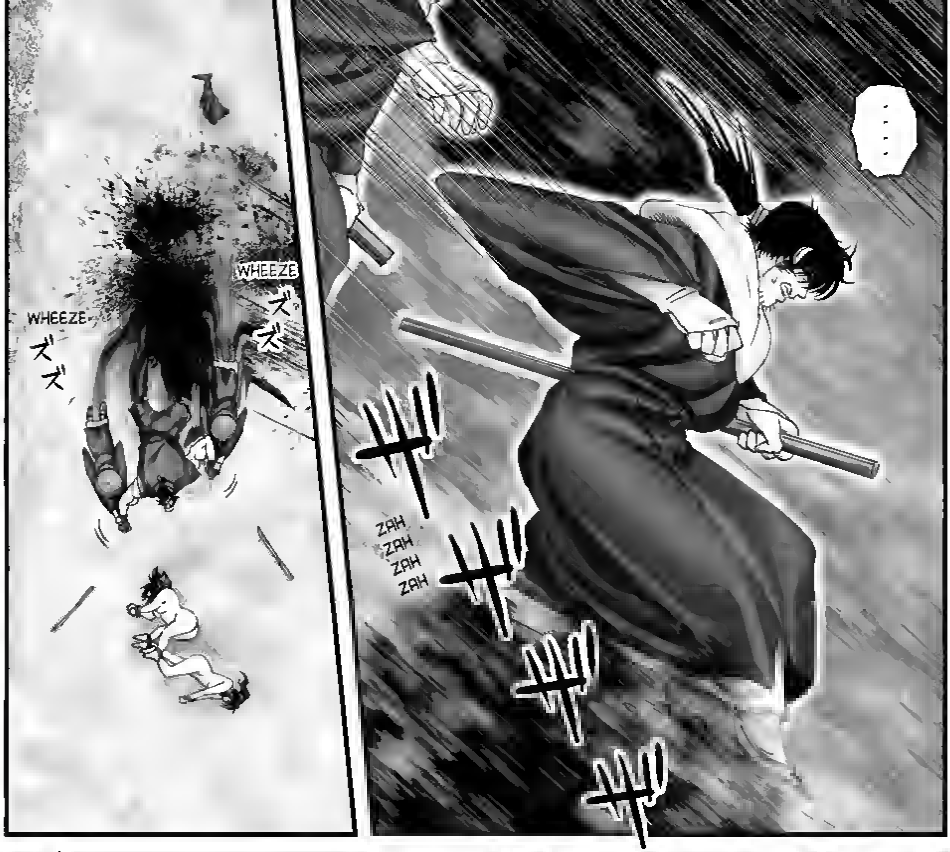
LET GO!
SWISH
SWING
OI!
YANK
SWOOSH
SWISH
GET OFF!

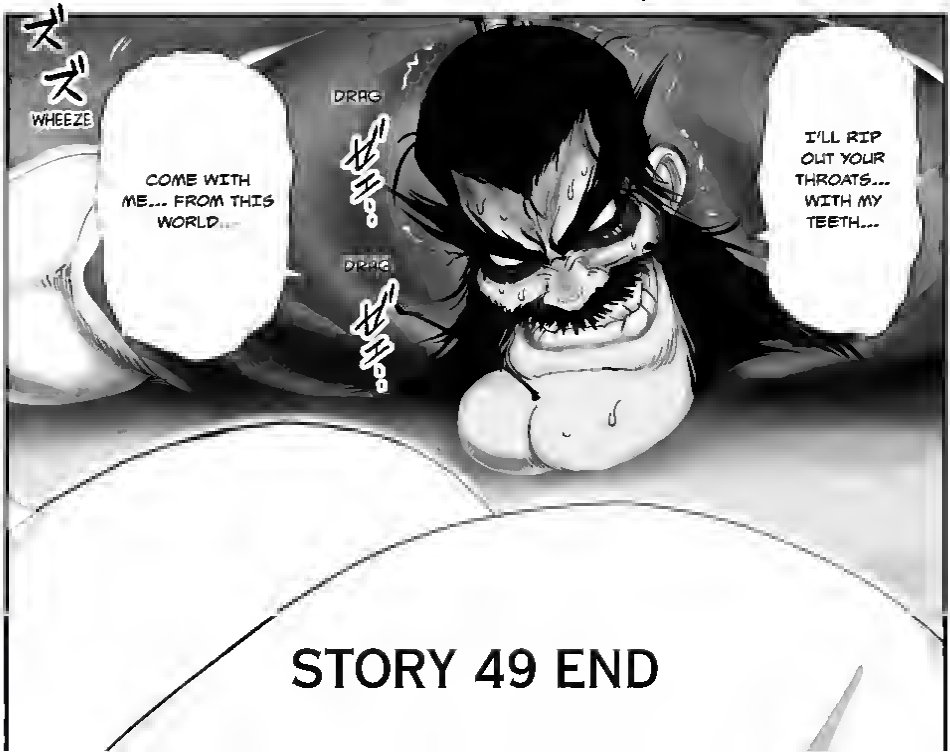
ARGH
CRUNCH
ACK
FWUP
AGH
RAWR
SLASH
SLASH

NGH
THUNK
UGH

ACK ...
UGH ...

THUNK
...I...
HOW COULD ...THIS ...


WHEEZE
ズズ
WHEEZE
ズズ
ZAH
ZAH
ZAH
ZAH


ズズ
WHEEZE
COME WITH ME... FROM THIS WORLD...
DRAG
ゼェ。
DRAG
ゼェ。
I'LL RIP OUT YOUR THROATS... WITH MY TEETH...

STORY 49 END

柳生
十兵衛
三厳

COME WITH ME... FROM THIS WORLD...
DRAG
DRAG
I'LL RIP OUT YOUR THROATS... WITH MY TEETH...
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
WHEEZE

THUNK
!?

STORY 50: FINALLY IN AIZU

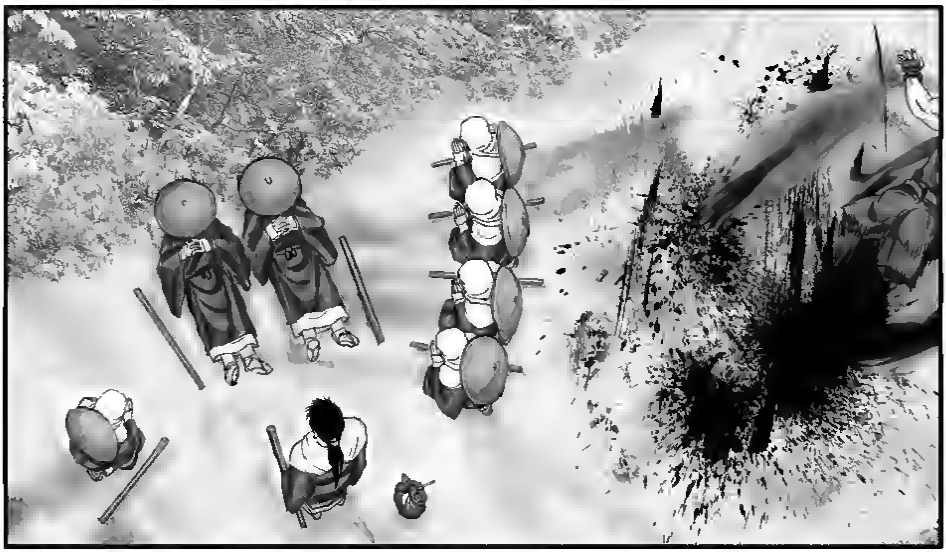
NO...
NO ONE ELSE COULD HAVE DEFEATED ME...
SO... THAT'S HOW IT WAS...
HEH... HEHE ...

...THE MOST FAMOUS... SWORDS-MAN IN THE WORLD...
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
WHEEZE

HOW...HOW COULD I BE DEFEATED... BY WOMEN... AND PRIESTS...
NO I WAS DEFEATED BY A MAN...

YAGYŪ
...
...JYU...
BEI...

...YES.
CUT OFF RENSUKE'S HEAD.
YES?
OKEI, OSAWA.

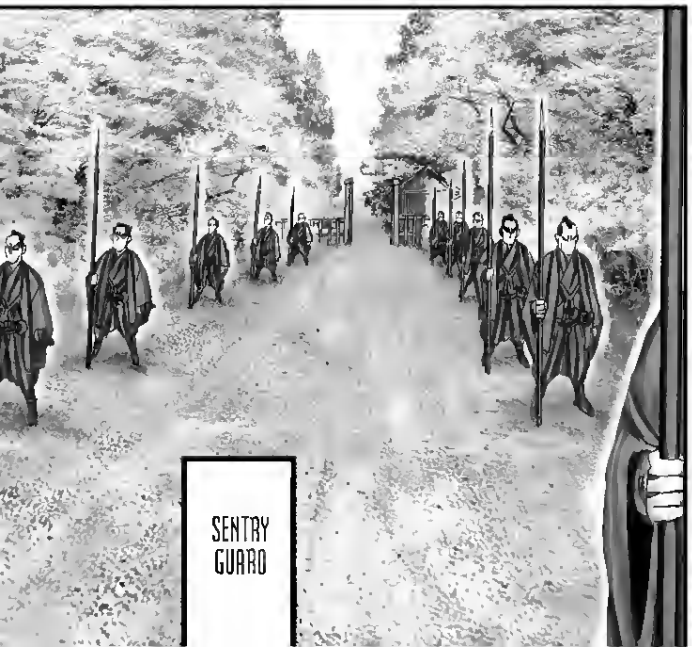


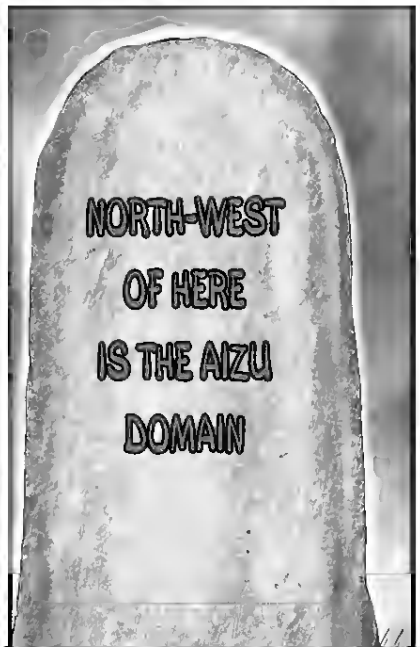
...
UGH ...
NGH ...
QUIVER
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP

MASTER TAKUAN'S TEACHINGS...
YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?

I DO.
I WILL NEVER FORGET IT.

猪苗代湖
INAWASHIROKO
会津
AIZU
勢至峠
SEISHI PASS
永沼
NAGANUMA
上小屋
KAMAGOYA
飯土用
IIDOYU
SHIRAKAWA
白河
HASU
芦野
OTAWARA
大田原
KITSUREGAWA
喜連川
THE BOUNDARY OF THE AIZU DOMAIN. SEISHITŌGE


SENTRY GUARD


NORTH-WEST OF HERE IS THE AIZU DOMAIN

HMPH
THE BOUNDARIES LOOK PRETTY SECURE.
IT'S AS IF A LARGE CLOUD OF DANGER HAS SETTLED OVER THE MOUNTAIN PASS.
.....

IT IS A NET FINE ENOUGH THAT NOT EVEN AN ANT COULD FIND A WAY THROUGH.
NO...THIS IS WHAT THE AIZU BORDER IS LIKE ALL ALONG.
COMPLETELY WATERTIGHT DEFENSE.
PERHAPS WE SHOULD LOOK FOR A PASS WITHOUT A SENTRY GUARD?
AVOID AKINARI'S PROCESSION AND MEET UP WITH TAKUAN AND THE OTHERS
FIRST YOU SHALL TAKE THESE FOUR AND RETRACE OUR STEPS...
HMM...
SO WHAT ARE WE TO DO, MASTER JYUBEI?

...
ALL-ALL RIGHT... THEN?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO AFTER THAT?

THEN ...
HAVE THE WOMEN RIDE IN A LITTER.
AND HEAD STRAIGHT FOR THE SENTRY POST.
WHAT?!

WE'LL ENTER THROUGH THE FRONT GATE OF AIZU...
...TRIUMPHANTLY.

OH. I SEE THEM!
TWO DAYS LATER... ONCE AGAIN, SEISHITÔGE
HMM.
FINALLY OUR LORD HAS RETURNED!

THE HORSE IN THE FRONT IS KÔRO GINSHIRÔ.
DADADA
CHUM
CHUM
CHUM
CHUM
...BUT...
NEXT TO THE LITTER IS SHIBA ICHIGANBÔ...

I CAN'T SEE WASHINOSU RENSUKE.
WHAT?
THERE IS NO POSSIBLE WAY THAT YOU COULD MISS SUCH A LARGE MAN.
LOOK AGAIN.
WHAT IS IT, KOSHICHIRO?
HMM...
!?

THIS IS...
DŌHAKU-SAMA
SLIDE
カラ

OUR LORD...
SLIP
RUSTLE
IS HE RETURNED?
AKINARI'S KINGDOM, OYURA
RUSTLE
STORY 50 END
TO BE CONTINUED
IN VOLUME 7

about the authors

FŪTARO YAMADA

Born in 1922 in Hyogo Prefecture, Fūtaro Yamada made his debut as a novelist while still a student at Tokyo Medical University. Yamada was known for his mystery novels such as *Ganchuu No Akuma*. Later, his Ninja Scrolls series became wildly popular. He penned a wide body of literature, including the period piece *Makaitensei*, as well as several collections of essays such as *Ato Senkai No Banmeshi* and *Ningen Rinjyuu Zukan*. He passed away on July 28, 2001.

MASAKI SEGAWA

Masaki Segawa made his debut in 1997 with the series *Senma Monogatari*, which ran in the weekly comic *Morning*. In 1998, he began his long-running *Uppers* magazine series *Onigiri Jyuuzou*, which ended in the year 2000. This is his second-longest-running series and his first adaptation. He loves cats and watermelon. He currently resides in Funabashi.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Note about names, page 2

Monks often took the name of the region that they were born in, and added the suffix –bô to use as their given names. This was a demonstration that they had severed their ties and fully assumed their new Buddhist identity. The monks in this manga have also followed with this tradition.

Ôshû Road, page 3

Ôshû Road was one of the five roads that were built to connect Edo to the rest of Japan. These routes were established mainly to serve government officials who would be traveling to and from Edo especially as the Shogun had decreed that a portion of each year had to be spent in residence at Edo. Along these routes there were several post stations, again established by the Shogun, to provide lodgings for the night.

Post stations and lodgings along the Ôshû Road, page 6

There were many post stations (*shukuba*) established along the five main traveling routes maintained by the government. These post stations were places that travelers could rest on their journeys. At these stations there would also be official lodgings (*honjin*) reserved for government officials. Many of these official lodgings were in fact personal residences of village or town leaders as will be seen later on in this volume.

Sutras, page 10

Takuan belonged to a sect of Buddhism called the Tendai School. It was a Japanese school of Mahayana Buddhist thought that descended from the Lotus Sutra school. For many years it was the dominant form of Buddhist thought in Japan and would have great influence on later developments in Japanese Buddhism. The Tendai sect placed emphasis on the Lotus Sutra. The Lotus Sutra was originally in Sanskrit and then translated into Chinese. It would be unlikely that a Japanese layperson at the time would have understood what the priests were chanting, yet for the superstitious Japanese there would still be a great respect for the teachings and its followers.

Takeda Shingen, page 19

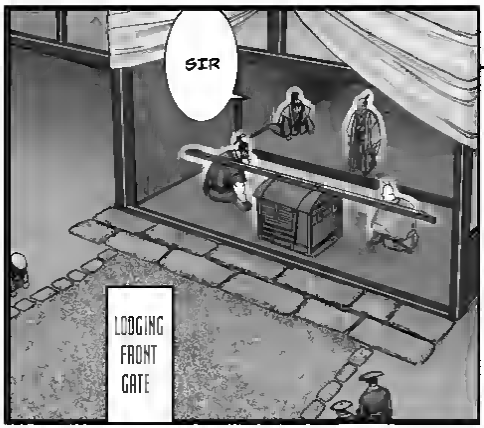
Takeda Shingen was a warlord who sought dominance over Japan during the latter part of the Warring States period. Although he was successful in a military sense, it was his competence at governance that earned him the greatest praise. And when Tokugawa Ieyasu came to power, he adopted many of the skills and techniques that Shingen had developed.

Jizô, page 21

Jizô is one of the most popular Japanese Buddhist deities. Jizô is often depicted as a Buddhist monk. He is commonly believed to protect those souls that enter the underworld, meaning that images of him are often present in graveyards. However, he is also seen as a protective deity of travelers, thus statues and shrines along the roadside are a relatively common sight.

***Koku*, page 40**

Koku is a traditional unit of measurement in Japan. It was not an area of measurement, as such, but instead a quantity of rice, thus it became an assessment of wealth. One *koku* is approximately 150g and was allegedly enough to feed a person for a year. To put Akinari's wealth into perspective, the largest domain in Japan was worth just over one million *koku*.



Litter, page 45

A litter or palanquin that Akinari rides in is a wheel-less vehicle. It was often used to transport the warrior class and nobility in Japan, especially used by those who were required to spend a residency in Edo. (For residency please see the previous volumes.)

Nikkô, page 65

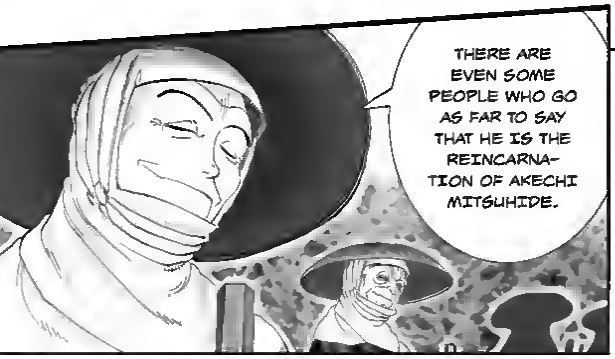
Nikkô has a large number of shrines including the mausoleum of Tokugawa Ieyasu. The site has now been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Ichiganbô has probably guessed who is in the facing litter from his knowledge that Nankôbô Tenkai had a close relationship with Tokugawa Ieyasu.

Nankôbô Tenkai, page 67

Nankôbô Tenkai was a Buddhist monk who, story has it, lived an incredible length of time. He was advisor to Tokugawa Ieyasu and won the trust of the Shogun who finally entrusted Tenkai with his will which included orders for the funeral arrangements. He continued to serve as an advisor to the next two Tokugawa Shoguns. He wielded much political power. However, little is known about his early life and many thaories arose.

Muromachi period, page 89

The Muromachi period is also known as the Ashikaga period. It ran from approximately 1336 –1573.



Incident at Honnôji, page 89

This refers to the incident where Akechi Mitsuhide forced Lord Oda Nobunaga to commit suicide at Honnôji Temple in Kyoto. Akechi's army surrounded Honnôji. Nobunaga tried to resist, but realizing that it was futile, he and his servants set fire to the building and Nobunaga committed suicide.

Echigo, page 92

Echigo is an old name for Niigata prefecture.

Not sharp enough, page 155

Here Rensuke makes a pun. To be "not up to the job" in Japanese is *ha ga tatanai* with the *ha* being the character for teeth. Literally, it means "Teeth aren't strong enough." However, here the author substitutes a character that sounds the same as the one for teeth but means blade.